

Community Leader Awarded for Neighborhood Service



Marlene Tran (l), who received an award for dedicated community work, was joined by (l-r) Diana Lau, chair of the Commission; Ed Lee, City Administrative Officer; and Police Chief Heather Fong.

Visitation Valley community and Immigrants Rights activist Marlene Tran received an award of recognition honoring her dedicated work in the neighborhood at a Im-

migrants Rights Commission monthly meeting July 10 at the Visitation Valley Community Center.

Representatives from numerous City departments were attended

the meeting along with nearly 100 community members who expressed various concerns, including personal and public safety, and Muni service.

New Funding for City Graffiti Removal

Mayor Newsom announced July 13 that nearly half a million dollars has been newly earmarked to aid the city's efforts to eradicate graffiti. The funding will foster a historic inter-agency collaboration between the Public Utilities Commission, Municipal Transportation Authority, and the Department of Public Works.

Currently, several city departments respond to graffiti removal and abatement. At the Mayor's behest, the City conducted a thorough analysis in order to streamline these inefficiencies.

As a part of the Mayor's Cleaning Initiative for 2006, graffiti abatement will become centralized through DPW. The new streamlined system will help the City abate graffiti on public property more quickly, and will help improve city worker's efficiency and accountability.

SFPUC and MTA have committed \$475,000 to the new effort, while DPW will provide the abatement services.

"This partnership will foster a greater coordinated effort between the three agencies and will afford a more centralized and efficient response to ridding the city's public areas of unsightly graffiti and tagging," said Mayor Newsom. "Graffiti is an unattractive blemish on our city that affects the quality of life, economic development, social fabric, and environmental health of San Francisco."

The level of graffiti vandalism has reached new levels in San Francisco. DPW alone received nearly 20,000 calls last year complaining about graffiti. Vandals travel from all over the Bay Area and even from around the world to leave their mark in the city.

A 2001 Civil Grand Jury estimated that graffiti cost SF taxpayers in excess of \$22 million annually. Today, that cost is estimated to be much higher.

"To truly make an impact on graffiti in San Francisco, our programs must engage the private sector, as well as other government agencies. DPW will work hard to reach out and communicate with property owners who are impacted by this crime," said Fred Abadi, Public Works Director. "By working together, we can prevent this activity that really degrades the quality of life in our City."

In addition to the newly earmarked funds and public service campaign announced today, Mayor Newsom has established several anti-graffiti initiatives including the launch of a city-wide Anti-Graffiti Campaign.

The mayor's new Street Cleaning Initiative for 2006-07 includes a "pro-active" graffiti abatement program, where DPW works with private companies and private property owners to clean up graffiti quickly on 100 heavily-used and visible blocks in the City.

In addition, DPW is leading the effort to improve the response of all private companies and state and federal agencies with structures in the right of way to secure their commitment to a quick turnaround.

The Mayor's Office has funded a public information officer to focus on educating private property owners about anti-graffiti strategies, as part of the Mayor's cleaning initiative.

Also, DPW continues to implement the Graffiti Ordinance, which requires property owners to abate graffiti on their own property. Currently, there is a 66 percent response rate once property owners receive a notice from DPW.

The Mayor also launched a new Anti-Graffiti Campaign as part of his graffiti abatement program. BBDO West, a national advertising agency, approached the City with a pro-bono advertising campaign to try to help in the war against graffiti.

The company developed the Anti-Graffiti Campaign as a gift to the City. Goals of the campaign are:

"To make people 'see' graffiti again. Graffiti is not part of our urban culture, but a blight on our quality of life.

"Graffiti: it looks just as bad on the inside of your house as the outside; and:

"If you let graffiti linger in your neighborhood, it will spread.

The purpose of the campaign is to be provocative and get the public's attention to call in to report graffiti, abate it quickly and volunteer for Graffiti Watch, a volunteer anti-graffiti program.

Washington Mutual and Clean City donated printing and CBS Outdoor and JC Decaux volunteered ad space for the campaign.

"As a member of the San Francisco business community, we welcome the opportunity to work with public service groups to help tackle issues that affect our city," said Peter Sherman, EVP, Managing Director, BBDO West. "In this instance we're addressing graffiti. To raise awareness of this problem, we developed an out-of-home campaign that places this vandalism in our own homes in order to communicate that the outdoors is everyone's personal space and should no longer be ignored."

State Water Board Reminds Californians to Save Water

SACRAMENTO - As temperatures soar, the State Water Board urges water conservation when there is a power alert. Delaying lawn watering, laundry or dishwashing for just a few hours can free up electricity for air conditioning and other vital purposes.

Every gallon of water used requires power for water suppliers to pump it (and, in many cases, purify it). Using less water for domestic purposes also puts less pressure on our sewage treatment facilities, and uses less energy for water heating.

"While water generates electricity at dams, it also uses lots of power when it is moved around the state, pumped from wells or is transported in pipes. On days like today, we should think of water usage as power use," said Tam Doduc, State Water Board chair. "We are talking about enough power to cool thou-

sands of California homes."

As a regional heat wave persists over California, new record power demands have been set this week and high levels of use are expected to continue, according to the California Independent Service Operator (ISO).

"Energy conservation is always important, especially during heat waves. Every gallon of water we save before 6:00PM means there is additional electricity available for more important purposes. Conservation reduces the strain on California's grid," said Yakout Mansour, President and CEO of the California ISO.

"Gardens will still get their water and avoiding midday watering may actually be better for your plants. Experts say most of us should water during the cool parts of the day anyway. Early morning

is better than dusk since this helps prevent the growth of fungus.

"Water conservation is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce our demand for water. This stretches our supplies farther, and helps save our valuable resource.

"Over the longer term you can save water, and money, by replacing parts of your lawn and high-water-using trees and plants with less thirsty ones. But do this only in wet years.

"There are also many effective ways to conserve water in and around your home that will save you money on your water bill. You can find more at: www.h2ouse.org

"You can find out more about saving electricity at www.fypower.org and monitor the California ISO Website at www.ca.iso.com for updated information about the electricity supply.

S.F. Property Owners Receiving Assessed Value Notifications

Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting on July 24 conducted a public education press conference where he explained the new Notification of Assessed Value for 2006-07 each property owner in San Francisco will be receiving.

The notification informs property owners of the current value of their property as well as any exemptions currently applied to their property.

"The notification is an information letter only and property owners do not need to take any action unless they believe their property's market value is less than the assessed value shown in the letter," instructed Ting.

If the property owner disagrees with the assessed value indicated on the letter, then they must have factual evidence to support a lower valuation and may contact the Assessor's office for an informal review of the value before September 1, 2006. Property owners may file a formal "Application for Changed Assessment" with the Assessment

Appeals Board, an independently appointed review board, before the Board's September 15, 2006 deadline.

Under State law (Proposition 13), real property is reappraised only when a change-in-ownership occurs, or upon completion of new construction. Except for these two instances, property assessments cannot be increased by more than 2 percent annually, based on the California Consumer Price Index.

In certain cases the assessed value indicated at the bottom of the letter may not be up to date if there has been a recent purchase or new construction performed on the property. If the recipient of the notification letter has recently sold the property they may disregard the letter.

The Notification of Assessed Value for 2006-2007 also serves the function of informing property owners if they are receiving a homeowner's exemption. At the bottom of the notification letter there is a line that totals all exemptions applied to the

property and those owners that are eligible should see a \$7,000 homeowners' exemption.

"It is the intent of this notification to inform those eligible property owners not currently receiving a homeowners' exemption and encourage them to apply with our office," stated Ting.

To contact our office regarding homeowners' exemption please call (415) 554-5599.

"This Notification of Assessed Value is common practice in counties throughout the state of California and I am proud to bring San Francisco in-line with the best practices currently being implemented throughout this state," commented Ting.

Property owners that disagree with the assessed value indicated on the letter may contact the Office of the Assessor-Recorder for an informal review before September 1, 2006 by phone at (415) 554-5596 or by email at assessor@sfgov.org.

Supervisors Pass Minimum Wage Ordinance

Supervisor Sophie Maxwell's "Minimum Wage Implementation and Enforcement Ordinance" was unanimously approved by the full Board of Supervisors on July 11.

This ordinance will expand the powers of the city's Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE), including provisions to allow the office to enforce all pro-

visions of California labor law and to collect interest on unpaid wages due to workers.

On a related note, Supervisor Maxwell added more than \$400,000 to this year's city budget to increase enforcement staff at OLSE and to fund a community-based education and outreach program for the Minimum Wage program.

Citizens Advisory Committee in Valley



Both the former Schlage Lock site on Bayshore Boulevard and Leland Avenue were important topics revisited July 11 at the first in a series of neighborhood meetings of a Redevelopment Survey Area Citizens Advisory Committee meetings at the Visitation Valley Community Center on July 11. Future meetings will be announced in the next few months.

Grapevine Mailbox

Naming the Grapevine

Dear Editor:

Hard to believe we have had the pleasure of reading the Grapevine for 20 years already. My goodness, how time flies!

I remember the meeting held in the ballroom at the Visitation Valley Community Center, back in 1986.

The contest winner would be announced that day. What was going to be the name of our new community newspaper?

The winner would receive \$100 and a free super-duper Viking Sandwich. I am proud to say, the Grapevine won, and so did I.

It was a wonderful day ... and the sandwich was great!

Your friend, Pat Crocker (VVCC Senior Program Director 1984-2004)

Keeping a SAFE Summer

Dear SAFE Friends and Supporters:

The Summer holiday and vacation season is now upon us with long holiday weekends and even more extended vacation trips planned in the months ahead. While away, we should not forget that our home could become an inviting target for burglars, who seldom take vacations when their victims do. Here are some steps to take to prevent your home from becoming an easy target for burglars; please pass on the information to your communities and neighbors:

1. Make sure your doors and windows are locked when you are away from home. It is unbelievable, but true, that approximately half of all residential burglaries are made via unforced entries. That is making it too easy for the burglars. Keep doors and windows closed and locked tight.

2. The same goes for garage doors. They should be closed and locked tight, so no one can see if

your car is gone. If you have an automatic garage door opener, unplug it.

3. If you return and find a door or window has been forced or broken while you were gone, do not enter. Go to a neighbor's house and call the police (415) 553-0123 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

4. Do not publicize your absence by leaving a message on your telephone answering machine giving specific information about your absence: "I'll be gone until Sunday." It is better to keep your message vague.

5. Also, let your alarm service provider know specific information about times you will be absent from your home.

6. Let trusted neighbors know when you are leaving and when you plan to return, so they can be extra alert for anything suspicious. Try to leave a number where you can be reached in an emergency.

7. Notify the post office to hold your mail or have a neighbor pick it up daily. Also arrange to have your newspapers put on hold or diverted.

8. Use automatic timers to turn lights on in multiple locations in the house at dusk, and off at your bedtime. Vary the lights to be turned on and have a radio or TV on a timer. Never leave lights or the radio on constantly. Tune your radio to a talk show so that voices can be heard.

9. Your home and yard should reflect current occupation; keep the property in good maintenance and repair.

Have a worry free vacation this summer with improved home security while your home is "Home Alone." For additional safety and effective neighborhood surveillance, establish a SAFE Neighborhood Watch group, or get a SAFE residential security assessment to learn how make your home more burglar-resistant. Contact SAFE at 553-1984 or www.sfsafe.org.

New Education Perspective

Ensuring the health and safety of our youth is one of the most important responsibilities of society. Unfortunately, today's youth face challenges that are far different from generations past. According to the California Department of Education (CDE), there are over 650 California schools that are designated as "high priority," or low performing, with only 68.9% of California high school students actually graduating.

On a national level, California students ranked in the bottom six states in each of the annual performance tests administered by the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP). While many of us have issues with some of these standardized tests, as a caring and responsive community, this is something we cannot tolerate any longer. Our children deserve the best and we, as a community, must work together to provide them with the support they need to fulfill their academic potential.

As a former teacher and child psychologist, I have made the support and protection of our children my top legislative priority. An education provides our children with options, and we must continue to deliver innovative solutions to increasingly complex problems of today.

Currently, the lack of sufficient support for students battling common mental health conditions, nutritional deficiencies, and many other challenges outside the classroom has severely influenced the academic performance of our students statewide. In response to this challenge, I have introduced a bill, AB 2003, which would develop a locally administered program geared towards helping students overcome learning barriers and promoting healthy development within our schools.

Research has shown that one of the best ways to improve academic performance is to provide on-site comprehensive learning support to students in need. There are several instances of collaborative partnerships that exist within school communities; however, they

have not been coordinated in effort to maximize results. In fact, the UCLA Mental Health Project concludes that both school and community-based support resources associated with California schools districts are "often used in an ad hoc, fragmented, and marginalized way" resulting in an impact that is "too limited" and "not cost-effective". Thus, an attempt to provide care for the *entire person* is an effort that must be fueled by strategic and effective partnerships among families, community based organizations, and our schools.

AB 2003 seeks to urge such reform by laying the foundation for the seamless and efficient delivery of *Comprehensive Pupil Learning Support Systems* (CPLSS) in five school districts

throughout the state. If passed, the bill would allocate a total of 13 million dollars over a three year period. These funds would be devoted towards both program implementation and the California Department of Education's ability to track its performance.

I firmly believe that each student deserves the opportunity to be successful in the classroom. In order to ensure success among future generations, we must provide all the necessary and adequate resources—not just books and teachers—that will deliver the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual support that our children need to succeed.

Leland Y. Yee, Ph.D., Speaker pro Tempore, California State Assembly

Scientists Give High Grade to Vitamin E

At a recent conference, scientists that specialize in nutritional oils met to examine vitamin E, discuss recent scientific advances and answer questions raised by a highly publicized 2004 article in *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Their conclusion was that vitamin E is safe and offers well-documented health benefits.

The Hot Topics symposium at the American Oil Chemists Society annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, covered "extensive science supporting the role of various vitamin E constituents with careful evaluation and scientific discussion by the large audience of oil chemists," said conference moderator Professor Ronald Watson, Ph.D., University of Arizona. Attendees also discussed recent research that has identified a group of components of natural vitamin E, the tocotrienols, which may be effective in treating strokes and for nerve regeneration.

In his presentation, Neil E. Levin, a Chicago area clinical nutritionist with an extensive background in vitamins, reviewed the large number of scientific studies showing that people taking the anti-oxidant vitamin E had better heart health.

Although the authors of the negative study admitted it had flaws and cautioned not to generally apply their results, that review still influences media reports on vitamin E safety. More rigorous reviews, such as in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, concluded that the data actually showed no risks at doses up to 1,600 IU, but that clarification failed to stem the negative reports that caused a reported 19 percent drop in vitamin E use.

"Most reporters are not trained to understand scientific jargon, and certainly not to scrutinize how a study is conducted to sniff out inaccurate conclusions, but they have needlessly scared people away from an important vitamin that is deficient in most Americans' diet," Levin said.

"Conflicting evidence has left consumers unsure of vitamin E's benefits and wary of harm," Professor Watson said. "Poor journalism has created consumer confusion." The symposium was hosted by the Natural Health Research Institute (www.naturalhealthresearch.org), which promotes research on the role of natural products as cost-effective tools to reduce leading causes of chronic disease and death.

NAPS

Violent Crime Increase in Both San Francisco and San Mateo

SACRAMENTO—Crime statistics released July 10 by Attorney General Bill Lockyer show that while there has been an overall statewide decrease in violent crime, the Peninsula has seen a significant rise in such incidents.

San Mateo County's violent crime rate increased 12.9 percent from 2004 to 2005 and San Francisco witnessed a 4 percent increase, whereas statewide the violent crime rate actually decreased 5.1 percent.

"Clearly we are making progress on a statewide basis, but unfortunately every Bay Area county is seeing a dramatic increase in violent crime," said Assembly Speaker pro Tem Leland Yee. "This report is yet further evidence that more resources need to be directed to Northern California and the mental health services, community programs, and law enforcement that are tasked in dealing with these problems."

One contentious funding source for Bay Area counties is Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act. The current formula for distribution of funds, set by the Department of Mental Health, is heavily based on population and not the number of clients in need. As a result, communities such as San Francisco—with higher per-capita homeless and mentally-ill individuals—are

short changed in addressing such needs. Violent crime often results when such needs are unable to be addressed.

"We need to revisit the allocation formula for Proposition 63," said Yee. "Such distribution should not be based on population or income levels, but based on the real needs of the community."

Prop. 63 funding distribution for 2005-2006 heavily favored southern California. One example is the funding for community services and supports which resulted in San Francisco receiving only \$1,331,039 and San Mateo County receiving only \$1,250,081, while Los Angeles received \$69,133,067 and Orange

County received \$6,350,553.

According to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's office, the current formula allocation for San Francisco is the lowest in the state, at only \$6.86 per capita. By comparison, the average county allocation is \$9.29. Los Angeles County is \$9.43 per capita. Rural counties with small populations and lower capacity to provide services may receive over \$20 per capita. The nine counties with the lowest per-capita share of Prop. 63 funding are all in the Bay Area.

"While most people support the intent of Prop. 63, the current funding distribution should be reconsidered to better meet the needs of our state," said Yee.

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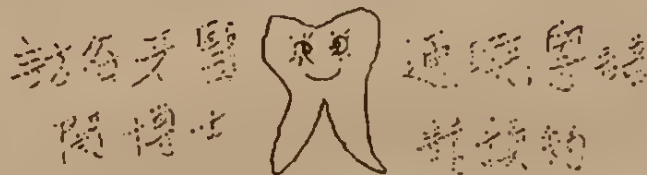
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Come to Church This Week

GRAPEVINE
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Simple Steps in Conserving Water

Did you know that a faucet that leaks just one drop per second can waste over 2,000 gallons of water per year? That a leaking toilet can waste 200 gallons a day? Or that an average shower uses 20-30 gallons of water?

Americans use an average of over 400 million gallons of water each day; much of that water is wasted due to carelessness.

The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) offers these simple water saving tips to conserve our most valuable and vital natural resource:

Indoors

*Turn faucets off when you are not using them; for example, do not leave the water running when washing dishes by hand or brushing your teeth.

*Make sure to repair any leaking faucets, pipes and toilets.

*Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave instead of running hot water over it.

*Dispose of toxic chemicals properly; do not pour them down the drain.

*Install water saving fixtures such as ultra low consumption toilets, efficient faucets and showerheads.

*Do not throw trash into the toilet as it will result in unnecessary and wasteful toilet flushing; instead, dispose of trash in the proper containers.

*Take a quick shower rather than a bath and save an average of 20 gallons of water.

*Clean vegetables in a sink or pan partially filled with water rather than running water from the tap.

*Re-use the water that vegetables are washed in for watering houseplants or for cleaning.

*Insulate water pipes; it'll make your water hotter faster and avoid the waste that comes when heating water.

*Instead of waiting for tap water to get cold enough for drinking, keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator.

*Whenever possible, compost food scraps or dispose of them in the garbage rather than using the garbage disposal, which requires a high level of water for operation.

*Only run your dishwasher when it is full to make the best use of water, energy and detergent.

*Cut down on the amount of rinsing you do before loading the dishwasher. Most modern dishwashers do an excellent job of cleaning dishes, pots and pans.

*Wait until you have a full load of laundry before running the machine to save both water and energy. If you can't wait for a full load, use the right water level to match the size of the load.

*When washing clothes by hand, the water should not be left running. Fill a laundry tub with water, and re-use

Saturdays are Special At Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Workshops are \$3 per child; \$5 for a parent and child combo. All kids under 8 must be with a paying adult. Call 554-9600 for further information.

*Aug. 5: Assemble your own ad hoc sculpture with pieces from an abundant wood scrap supply.

*Aug. 19: Make and decorate your own boomerang.

*Aug. 26: Incredible bug pictures will inspire you to sculpt and paint beetles of your own.

Sun, Wind and Water Day will be held at the Randall Museum on Saturday, Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Other regular Saturday activities include:

*Morning Family Ceramics from 10 to 11:30 a.m. (\$5 per person workshop fee)

*Meet the Animals from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.

*Animal Feeding at 12 noon.

*Golden Gate Model Railroad Club Exhibit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

wash and rinse water as much as possible. Likewise with the dishes.

Outdoors

*Water your lawn early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation. Similarly, do not water your lawn on windy days as it can also help to avoid excess evaporation.

*Don't follow a fixed watering schedule. Water when the grass or plants show signs of needing it. Over watering is bad for plants and lawns. It promotes shallow root growth, making your lawn less hardy. To determine if your lawn needs to be watered, simply walk across the grass. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.

*Cover swimming pools to minimize the loss of water due to evaporation. Also install a more efficient water saving filter.

*Use a broom rather than a hose to clean sidewalks or driveways.

*Install efficient irrigation devices that can be adjusted according to seasonal irrigation needs. Install moisture sensors in each irrigation zone (sunny, shady, etc.) to better determine irrigation needs.

*Do not leave sprinklers or hoses on unattended; it can result in leaks and over watering.

*Maintain a lawn height of 2 1/2 to 3 inches to help protect the roots from heat stress and reduce the loss of moisture to evaporation. Allowing the grass to grow slightly taller reduces water loss by providing more ground shade for the roots and by promoting water retention in the soil.

*Watering in several short sessions rather than one long one allows the lawn to better absorb water and helps reduce the risk of over watering.

*Check sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good repair.

*Make sure your sprinkler is placed so it only waters the lawn, not the pavement.

*Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist, which increases evaporation.

*Wash your car with a bucket of soapy water and use a nozzle to stop the flow of water from the hose between rinsing.

*Consider washing your car on the lawn, if possible, to reduce runoff.

*Consider Xeriscape landscaping which takes into consideration how the yard will be used and how it can provide the greatest benefit with the least amount of maintenance. This includes growing plants that are indigenous to the area and appropriate maintenance to reduce water use.

Gas Prices Rising Again in California

Prices at the pump have been moving higher recently, according to a new report from AAA of Northern California, which tracks the cost of fuel as a service to consumers. The statewide average price of a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline is now \$3.26, up 8 cents in the last two weeks. The average statewide price is the same as it was on June 13, when the last AAA monthly fuel price report was published. Prices were dropping at the end of June before they reversed course in July.

"We haven't seen the average price below \$3 a gallon in nearly three months," said Sean Comey, spokesman for AAA of Northern California. "Prices have varied up and down a bit, but filling your tank continues to be twice as expensive as it was four years ago."

The current average price in California is 71 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The most expensive average gas price in Northern California communities where AAA monitors fuel costs is in South Lake Tahoe, where regular unleaded sells for \$3.40 per gallon.

The lowest price among California cities tracked by AAA in mid-July was in Pleasanton and Vallejo, where gas cost an average of \$3.13 per gallon. Throughout Northern California, the average price was \$3.20. In the Bay Area, the average price was \$3.26. The statewide average record high price of \$3.38 was set on May 18 this year.

Despite some minor refinery problems which resulted in weak production recently, the supply of gasoline

Internet Auctions That Offer Great Deals ... and Steals

Who hasn't heard at least one friend brag about the great price they got through an online auction? Whether the item is new or used, unique or commonplace, the winning bidder feels a sense of accomplishment. When the purchase arrives as advertised, both the seller and the buyer end up satisfied.

Unfortunately, online auctions do not always offer a happy ending. Better Business Bureaus regularly receive complaints from Internet auction bidders who believe they were defrauded.

"There are some pretty sad tales," said Steve Cole, president and CEO of the Council of Better Business Bureaus. "Some buyers fail to receive any merchandise whatsoever; others receive an item that in no way resembles what was advertised. There are buyers who report being misled about the terms of the sale. We also hear from bidders who were tricked into using fake escrow sites when paying for their purchase."

BBBs in the U.S. and Canada are reaching out to online shoppers this summer to emphasize how to bid safely and successfully at Internet auction sites.

"If you use care and common sense, you'll secure some great bargains by avoiding unethical sellers," Cole said.

To help ensure satisfactory Internet auction transactions, the BBB encourages bidders to:

*Choose legitimate auction Web sites. Carefully read directions for bidders and know up-front what

Events at Visitation Valley Branch Library

Following are events in March at the Visitation Valley Branch Library, 45 Leland Ave. (at Desmond Street):

*Aug. 1, 8 and 15, Tuesday: Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m.

*Aug. 1, 8 and 15, Tuesday: Infant/Toddler Lapsit with stories songs and rhythms for young children ages birth-3 at 11:15 a.m.

*Aug. 8, Tuesday: California Wild: Our Animal Neighbors: Wildlife Associates brings a grey fox, porcupine, possum and hawk to share at 1:15 p.m.. For ages 5-12. Space is limited. Call (415) 355-2848 for reservations.

*Aug. 9, Wednesday: Preschool Video at 10:30 a.m.

types of protection (insurance, guarantees, etc.) the site offers.

*Verify the seller's identity and check their feedback rating before placing a bid. If you can't find any information on the seller, avoid doing business with them. Don't rely on e-mail alone; some sellers use a forged e-mail header. Get the seller's phone number and confirm that it is in service.

*Know the terms of the transaction. Who pays for shipping and delivery? Does the item come with a warranty? What is the seller's return policy?

*Insist on paying with an online payment service or a credit card. If you don't receive the merchandise, you can challenge the charges with your credit card issuer.

*If you decide to use an online payment service, know what protection you are afforded if the seller fails to ship the goods. Using a credit card to pay for goods through an online payment service will afford you "charge back" rights.

*Be cautious if the seller asks you to pay by check or money order as you will have little recourse if the

transaction goes awry. The Federal Trade Commission recommends in general that buyers not wire money either. If something goes wrong with the transaction, the buyer most likely will lose their payment.

*If the purchase is a big one, you might want to use a third-party escrow service that will hold your payment until you receive and approve the merchandise. Always verify that the escrow service is a reputable company. If the seller insists you use a specific escrow service and you cannot confirm its legitimacy, back away from the deal.

"This final tip is particularly important," Cole said. "Some buyers unwittingly do business with fraudulent escrow sites solely on the recommendation of sellers."

In fact, some scam artists have gone so far as to use the Better Business Bureau logo or name to try to convince buyers that an escrow service was operated by or endorsed by the BBB. Shoppers are advised to always contact the BBB when there are questions concerning the legitimacy of a service or retailer.

City Award for Human Rights for Women

Mayor Gavin Newsom announced July 6 that San Francisco has been awarded the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2006 Achievement Award for its public policy work promoting human rights for women.

Specifically, the award recognizes a gender analysis performed by the Mayor's Department on the Status of Women entitled *The Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW.)

Faced with a \$300 million budget short fall in 2003, The City and County of San Francisco was forced to impose major reductions in workforce and services. The Commission on the Status of Women was concerned about the disproportionate impact of these reductions on women and minorities.

In response, Mayor Newsom, then Supervisor Newsom introduced a resolution urging departments to conduct a gender analysis of the proposed reductions. Newsom's resolution reflected the principles of the United Nations Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women that required the City to ensure the protection of the human rights of women and girls, including equal access to employment, freedom from violence, and adequate healthcare.

"I am proud of San Francisco's role as a model for the rest of the country in terms of advancing

equality, tolerance and acceptance for all people," said Mayor Newsom. "This is a great honor and reflects the City's continued commitment to promoting positive change in the area of human rights by ensuring freedom from intolerance and bias."

Together, the CEDAW framework and the gender analysis tool constitute an innovative approach to improving the administration of government programs, providing key information for policy makers, producing measurable results, and promoting general governmental accountability.

NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States and awards programs that promote responsible, responsive and effective county government.

Play Space and Power Wheels at S.F. Zoo

Fisher-Price brings its giant play area to the San Francisco Zoo on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It's a roaring good time for families with children ages 6 months to 5 years at the Zoo's Playfield Promenade with loads of fun toys, activities, and a cool Power Wheels driving track for kids 3 years and older.

For more information, call the Fisher-Price Weekend Hotline phone number at (415) 753-7165 or visit www.sfbzoo.org

Visitation Valley Child Care Food Program

Visitation Valley Community Center announces sponsorship of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Meals will be available at no separate charge to children enrolled at all Visitation Valley Community Center's Children's Programs centers. "The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, or political beliefs. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication for program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice and TDD)."

"To file a discrimination complaint, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (Voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

For information regarding enrollment, contact: Visitation Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA. 94134; (415) 467-6400.

EarthTalk

Airport Noise and Pollution

Dear EarthTalk: What are the health and environmental issues associated with the noise and air pollution at airports?—John Cermak, via e-mail

Researchers have known for years that exposure to excessively-loud noise can cause changes in blood pressure as well as changes in sleep and digestive patterns—all signs of stress on the human body. The very word "noise" itself derives from the Latin word "noxia," which means injury or hurt.

On a 1997 questionnaire distributed to two groups—one living near a major airport, and the other in a quiet neighborhood—two-thirds of those living near the airport indicated they were bothered by aircraft noise, and most said that it interfered with their daily activities. The same two-thirds complained more than the other group of sleep difficulties, and also perceived themselves as being in poorer health.

Perhaps even more alarming, the European Commission, which governs the European Union (E.U.), considers living near an airport to be a risk factor for coronary heart disease and stroke, as increased blood pressure from noise pollution can trigger these more serious maladies. The E.U. estimates that 20 percent of Europe's population—or about 80 million people—are exposed to airport noise levels it considers unhealthy and unacceptable.

Airport noise can also have negative effects on children's health and development. A 1980 study examining the impact of airport noise on children's health found higher blood pressure in kids living near Los Angeles' LAX airport than in those living farther away. A 1995 German study found a link between chronic noise exposure at Munich's International Airport and elevated nervous system activity and cardiovascular levels in children living nearby. And a 2005 study published in the prestigious British medical journal, *The Lancet*, found that kids living near airports in Britain, Holland and Spain lagged behind their

classmates in reading by two months for every five decibel increase above average noise levels in their surroundings. The study also associated aircraft noise with lowered reading comprehension, even after socio-economic differences were considered.

Living near an airport also means facing significant exposure to air pollution. Jack Saponito of the U.S. Citizens Aviation Watch Association (CAW), a coalition of concerned municipalities and advocacy groups, cites several studies linking pollutants common around airports—such as diesel exhaust, carbon monoxide and leaked chemicals—to cancer, asthma, liver damage, lung disease, lymphoma, myeloid leukemia, and even depression. CAW is lobbying for the clean up of jet engine exhaust as well as the scrapping or modification of airport expansion plans across the country.

Another group working on this issue is Chicago's Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare, which lobbies and conducts extensive public education campaigns in an effort to cut noise and pollution and rein in expansion plans at the world's busiest airport. According to the group, five million area residents may be suffering adverse health effects as a result of O'Hare, only one of four major airports in the region. *Contacts:* Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare, www.areco.org; U.S. Citizens Aviation Watch Association, www.us-caw.org.

Dear EarthTalk: What is better for the environment, cork wine stoppers, or plastic or screw tops?—Susan Wolniakowski, Duluth, MN

Though you might be surprised, natural cork wine stoppers are the best choice, primarily because harvesting the real stuff is an age-old practice that keeps the world's relatively small population of cork oak trees, which can live for hundreds of years, alive. These scattered pockets of cork oaks, mostly in Portugal and Spain, thrive in the hot, arid conditions of the southern Mediterranean, sheltering a wide array of biodiversity and helping to protect the soil from drying out.

In addition, some wildlife depends upon cork oak forests for their survival, including the Iberian lynx and the Barbary deer, as well

as rare birds such as the Imperial Iberian eagle, the black stork and the Egyptian mongoose. As wine producers switch to other types of wine stoppers, the cork oak forests could be abandoned and the trees and the myriad plants and animals that depend on them could die out.

While 70 percent of wine bottles still contain natural cork stoppers, plastic and glass alternatives have been coming on strong in recent years. Indeed, more and more winemakers around the world are switching to alternatives, citing benefits including the avoidance of cork mold that can taint wine and the ability to more easily re-close opened bottles. In Australia and New Zealand—both promising upstarts on the global wine scene—the majority of wine producers use screw caps, mainly because they can make them cheaply instead of paying the relatively high price of importing the natural cork.

But the increasing popularity around the world of screw caps and plastic stoppers has cork producers and environmentalists alike worried. In a recent report, "Cork Screwed," the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) predicts that, at the current rate of adoption by wine producers, screw caps and other synthetic non-cork wine stoppers will dominate the market by 2015, calling into question the future of Mediterranean cork forests. In order to stem the tide, the organization is supporting efforts by Portuguese cork producers to certify their practices as sustainable by the non-profit Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which promotes sustainable, economically-viable forestry practices around the world.

"Cork oak forests rank among the top biodiversity hotspots in the Mediterranean and in Europe. At the same time, they are the backbone of an entire economy," says Nora Berrahmouni, coordinator of WWF's Cork Oak Landscapes program. "FSC certification will reinforce the already environmentally friendly characteristics of the cork economy, leading to new opportunities in cork markets," she adds.

Public opinion will undoubtedly be what calls the day, and producers of plastic stoppers and metal screw caps are working hard to overcome the stigma associated with using their products, as most consumers still associate non-cork stoppers with cheap wine. For now, the world's premiere winemakers in Europe are still bullish on the cork reserves in their own backyards. And wine enthusiasts everywhere can do their part to help the environment by choosing wines with natural cork stoppers.

Contact: Forest Stewardship Council. Got an environmental question? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o *E/The Environmental Magazine*, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Book Reviews

Succeeding on Your Own Terms

What three things do the world's most successful people share in common? They have their own definition of success, they know the personality qualities that drive them, and they've seized their defining moments.

That's the idea in a new book that examines the personality traits of successful people across the globe. The book's authors say the lessons learned can help people succeed in their careers and in life.

Written by Herb Greenberg and Patrick Sweeney—who have advised more than 25,000 companies in the areas of hiring, employee development, team building and organizational development—"Succeed on Your Own Terms" (McGraw-Hill, \$21.95) offers readers practical tips and advice.

The book provides an in-depth look at more than four dozen talented individuals who have made their marks in business, politics, sports, the arts and global affairs. It also offers readers the chance to complete a free, in-depth personality profile (worth over \$200) to help focus their energies on specific fields or goals. According to the book, successful people know that:

"Real success comes from recognizing, understanding, developing and concentrating on one's strengths. According to Paul Schulte, the youngest U.S. Olympic wheelchair basketball player at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, that means "focussing on what you have, rather than what you don't have."

"Being self-aware means not letting the outside world define you and knowing what motivates you. For instance, Rebecca Stephens, the first British woman to climb Mount Everest, says, "Success is the achievement of whatever it is that you set out to do. And it's up to you to de-

cide what that is. It can't be determined by anyone else."

"Being willing to risk means being all right with the possibilities. Senator Barbara Boxer says she doesn't always succeed if that only means accomplishing what she wants. "I can feel successful just moving my agenda forward," she explains.

"When you love what you do, people can sense it in your presence."

Reading the book's success stories will help people gain a new perspective—one that can be useful when striving for success in their own lives. *NAPS*

San Francisco's Natural History

The "real" San Francisco lies below the streets, sidewalks, and buildings, hidden from view in San Francisco: A Natural History by Greg Gaar and Ryder W. Miller, recently released by Arcadia Publishing (\$19.95).

This famous city is known for its beautiful setting of water, trees, hills, and beaches, but relatively few people know of its true natural state.

Before it was built up and paved over, the earth here was a diverse ecosystem of creeks, marshes, sand dunes, estuaries, and densely forested hills.

Over this landscape roamed elk, rabbit, bears, bobcat, and mountain lion, and the now-crowded bayfront teemed with mollusks, otters, dolphins, and whales, while huge flocks of birds blocked out the sun overhead. Today, only about two percent of the city's natural areas remain as they were.

Collected by San Francisco historians Greg Gaar and Ryder W. Miller, vintage photographs show a San Francisco that no longer exists. But in addition to an untouched natural landscape, readers will also see how nature adapted over time to coexist with a crowded modern city.

It is a poignant and engrossing story that holds more relevance than ever as cities around the world attempt to reconcile their place in the natural order.

Composting and Gardening Class in August

Classes are held on Saturdays at the Garden for the Environment, 7th Avenue at Lawton Street. Call 731-5627 for a more information or to pre-register.

*Aug. 5: Composting in the Sunset, 10 a.m. to 12 noon - Learn what you can do to save money, save resources, reduce waste, and help the environment while getting to visit a beautiful community garden in the Sunset. This free class will cover the basics of both backyard and worm composting so don't miss out at the White Crane Springs Community Garden, 184 Locksley Ave. at 7th Avenue).

*Aug. 9: Basic Vegetable Garden-

ing in the City, 10 a.m. to 12 noon - Learn the basics of how to get started and what to plant now to enjoy fresh home-grown veggies all winter long. \$15. Pre-registration required.

*Aug. 26: Summer Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop and Workday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Learn to enhance the health and yield of fruit trees with simple pruning techniques in this free class. Summer pruning helps ripen and color this year's fruit while setting up strong branches for next year's growth. Learn to minimize disease and make the most of a small area. Bring a dish to share for lunch. Pre-registration required.

Cooking Corner

Grilled Mushrooms and Shrimp A La Grecque

1/4 cup olive oil; 2 tablespoons lemon juice; 2 teaspoons minced garlic; 1 teaspoon dried oregano; 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper; 1 pound large peeled and deveined shrimp; 12 ounces fresh white mushrooms; 2 medium-sized zucchini, sliced 1 inch thick (about 2-1/2 cups); 1 medium-sized red onion cut in 8 wedges; 4 pitas, warmed.

Preheat outdoor grill or broiler. In a large bowl, stir together olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, oregano, salt and black pepper.

Add shrimp, mushrooms, zucchini and red onion; gently toss until coated. Marinate for 10 minutes.

Place vegetables and shrimp on a vegetable grilling rack or a rack in a broiler pan.

Grill or broil no more than 6 inches from heat source until vegetables and shrimp are just cooked, about 8 minutes, stirring and brushing occasionally with remaining marinade.

Serve on pita bread with plain yogurt and chopped cucumber, if desired.

NAPS

FREE CERAMICS CLASS

For everyone 18 and older at
Visitacion Valley Community Center,
66 Raymond Avenue

Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Very therapeutic and fun. You do not need to stay
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We have a wonderful teacher to assist you.

For more information, call the
VCC Senior Program: (415) 467-4499

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Watercooler Counsel

by Rich Proulx

Art of Targeting

Q: I am a university professor looking to relocate to the west coast. In my search for another teaching position, I've noticed that several colleges have stated in job announcements that women and minorities are "encouraged" or even "especially encouraged" to apply. I thought that an applicant's race and sex weren't supposed to be considered by an employer in the hiring process. What's going on? -Positively Perplexed, Raleigh, NC

A: Good question, Perplexed! As you may know, federal law prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and applies to all terms, conditions, and privileges of employment, including advertising and recruitment. So, generally speaking, job advertisements typically should not indicate a preference based on race, sex, or ethnicity. However, because members of groups that have been historically underrepresented in a particular profession may be deterred from applying unless they are encouraged to do so, such advertisements help employers attain greater diversity among their applicants. This type of diversification initiative could apply to anyone and really should not be considered preferential hiring. For example, if men are underrepresented in a hospital's nursing department it might be appropriate to "encourage" applications from them.

Q: My employee, Jane, has been leaving work frequently during the afternoon because she is sick. A few days ago, I heard from another employee that Jane has hepatitis. I do not want to pose a health risk to the other employees by ignoring this information. What should I do? -Stumped, Vacaville, CA

A: I can see your dilemma. Respecting an employee's medical privacy rights is important, especially in light of the federal ADA and HIPAA laws, but concern for the well-being of your other employees is important too. In this particular situation, it makes sense to do a little research. Searching the National Institute of Health website (www.nih.gov) shows that while certain forms of hepatitis have more serious health effects than others, all are very difficult to pass on to coworkers in a normal workplace setting. Possible exceptions in which more caution might be warranted would be in businesses involving food service or medical care. So, if you work in an office setting, asking Jane about her possible condition would likely be a violation of her privacy. However, if your workplace is a restaurant, and you feel it is necessary to speak with Jane, be sure to talk with her in a location where other employees will not overhear the conversation. Another option might be to reissue your company's policy regarding contagious medical conditions. Or, perhaps tell Jane you've noted her absences and ask whether she is interested in taking FMLA leave. Maybe this will open the door for her to volunteer the information to you.

Q: I was informed by the Dept. of Labor - Wage and Hour Division that I am under investigation. They wouldn't tell me why I was under investigation or even if it was due to a problem with employees' hours or wages! They are visiting my company as part of their investigation. Can you give me any advice on what I should expect? -Small employer, Anchorage, AK

A: Let me reassure you, you are not alone. The Wage and Hour Division does not inform businesses why they are being investigated. Usually, it is because they have received a complaint. Sometimes they focus on low-wage industries because they are more likely to have high rates of violations or more egregious violations. Other times, they will focus on a number of businesses in a specific geo-

graphic area. Their investigations can be about any of the laws they enforce, which covers a broad range of issues such as overtime, child labor, minimum wage, FMLA leave, and even certain employment standards and worker protections under the Immigration and Nationality Act. I strongly suggest you take a look at the list of laws they enforce to make sure you are acquainted with all of them before one of their investigators arrives at your doorstep. You can find them on the web at www.dol.gov/esa/whd. As what to expect when they come, they will likely 1) look through your documents, such as payroll records; 2) conduct private interviews with your employees; and 3) if they discover a problem, they will have a sit down with you to tell you what they found and what they want you to do about it (i.e. pay \$). You can have an attorney represent you during any part of the process, but it's definitely not required.

Q: I complained about sexual harassment by my supervisor. My employer supported my complaint and disciplined the harasser. In order to keep me away from the former harasser, the company decided to reassign me to another job (for the same pay). Although I am glad I don't have to work with my former supervisor anymore, I liked my old job better and would have preferred to keep it. Did my employer do the right thing? -L.T., Eureka, CA

A: Your situation sounds very similar to the one decided by the Supreme Court last month (Burlington

Northern & Santa Fe Railway Co. v. White). The Court clarified the national standard for retaliation. It is illegal to retaliate against someone for engaging in protected activity, such as making a discrimination complaint or engaging in EEO activity. In order to be retaliation, the employer must subject the person to an adverse action that would have "dissuaded a reasonable worker from making or supporting a charge of discrimination." For example, a schedule change in an employee's work schedule may make little difference to many workers, but may matter enormously to a young mother with school age children. Another example given by the Court was that a supervisor's refusal to invite an employee to lunch is normally a trivial, nonactionable petty slight. But, excluding an employee from a weekly training lunch that contributes significantly to the employee's professional advancement might well be retaliation as it could deter a reasonable employee from complaining about discrimination. Most relevant to your situation, the Court determined that transferring Ms. White to a less desirable job after she complained of sexual harassment was illegal retaliation. So, no, your employer did not do the right thing.

Right thing **A:** A gam of government experts would love for you to target us with your questions. Last fiscal year, 75,428 charges of discrimination were filed with the EEOC. Send your questions to Rich at Watercooler.Counsel@excite.com who is a former Supervisory Investigator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission www.eeoc.gov. Identifying information in the questions may be fictional.

New Law Revamps IRS Offer in Program

WASHINGTON — Under a new federal law, taxpayers submitting new offers in compromise must make a 20 percent nonrefundable, up-front payment in many cases, the Internal Revenue Service announced July 11.

The recently-enacted Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (TIPRA) made major changes to the offer in compromise (OIC) program, tightening the rules for lump-sum offers and periodic-payment offers. These changes become effective for all offers received by the IRS starting July 16, 2006.

An offer in compromise is an agreement between a taxpayer and the IRS that resolves the taxpayer's tax debt. The IRS has the authority to settle, or "compromise," federal tax liabilities by accepting less than full payment in certain circumstances.

Under the new law, taxpayers submitting requests for lump-sum OICs must include a payment equal to 20 percent of the offer amount. The payment is nonrefundable, that is, it will not be returned if the OIC request is later rejected. A lump-sum OIC means any offer of payments made in five or fewer installments.

Taxpayers submitting requests for periodic-payment OICs must include the first proposed installment payment with their application. A periodic payment OIC is any offer of payments made in six or more installments. The taxpayer is re-

quired to pay additional installments while the offer is being evaluated by the IRS. All installment payments are nonrefundable.

Under the new law, taxpayers qualifying as low-income or filing an offer based solely on doubt as to liability qualify for a waiver of the new partial payment requirements.

If the IRS cannot make a determination on an OIC within two years, then the offer will be deemed accepted. If a liability included in the offer amount is disputed in any court proceeding, that time period is omitted from calculating the two-year timeframe.

OIC requests are submitted using Form 656, Offer in Compromise. The form provides detailed instructions for completing an offer and includes all of the necessary financial forms. When submitting Form 656, taxpayers must include an application fee of \$150 unless they qualify for the low-income exemption or are filing a doubt-as-to-liability offer.

A new version of Form 656, revised to reflect the new law, will be posted on IRS.gov in the next few weeks. In the meantime, taxpayers may continue to use the 2004 revision of the form.

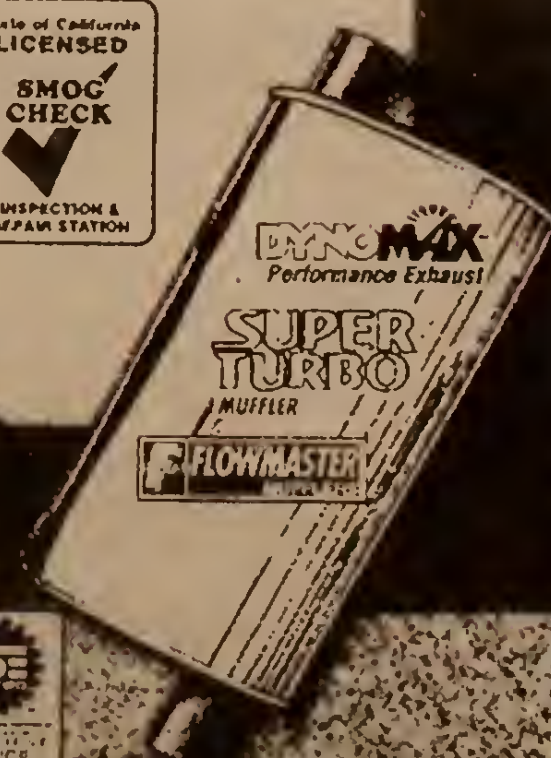
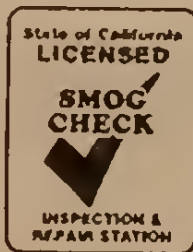
Complete information on the entire collection process and the OIC program are on IRS.gov. Further details on the TIPRA changes can be found in Notice 2006-68, available now on the IRS Web site.

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Welcome



415-585-8281

2500 BAYSHORE BLVD. (at Visitacion)

Joe Leland around the neighborhood

***Checking the Light Rail:** Test cars have actually now been spotted along sections of the new Third Street Light Rail line, with one car actually making it onto the Bayshore tracks.

***Hot Days in Summer:** Does anyone remember a Summer in San Francisco that had so many hot and sunny days before this year? Those intermittent foggy days are actually a blessing in disguise!

***Leland Avenue Street Fair:** Sunday, September 10th promises to be a fun-filled community event on from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Leland Avenue Street Fair will be held along Leland Avenue, from Bayshore Boulevard to Alpha Street. For more information, to volunteer, or to add to our mailing list contact Crezia Tano at Ctano@VVBOOM.Org or call 415-587-7896 x104 or Russel Morine at Rmorine@aol.com or call 415-740-4014.

***Home-Based Business:** Are you a Visitation Valley resident operating a home-based business? The Visitation Valley Business Opportunities and Outreach to Merchants (VVBOOM) is planning a networking event to discuss your special needs and to survey the kinds of neighborhood services that might help your business. For more information call Bob Lehman at 415-902-1122 or email 3-list.keeper@sbglobal.net

***Got email?** Want to stay current on Valley meetings and events? Send an email to the Bob "Keeper of the List" Lehman requesting regular email updates: rlpb@sbglobal.net

Of Graffiti and Broken Windows

by Russel Morine

Is graffiti art? It can be but in most cases its vandalism, plain and simple. In the early morning hours of July 19, 2006 at least two young vandals sprawled their unintelligible "tags" along Leland/Bayshore defacing more than ten buildings and storefronts (including a church!).

The incident occurred at 2:55 a.m. and was perpetrated by at least two individuals. These details are known because a portion of the incident was captured on a private security camera. Although faces aren't clearly distinguishable one vandal was unmistakably a young girl (teenaged, possible Hispanic or Asian, dark baggy clothing and gold or silver hooped earrings). Copies have been made and forwarded to the officers at the Ingleside Police Station.

How a community responds to graffiti and other minor quality of life crimes is very important. The "fixing broken window theory" argues that how a community deals with minor crimes can deter crimes of greater social impact. For example, if a window in a vacant building is broken and not repaired, a message is sent that its OK to break more, its then OK to loiter around that building. Loitering leads to petty crime, petty crime leads to greater criminal activity. A vacant building becomes an abandoned building.

The point is that it's much easier (and cheaper) to fix the broken window then it is to combat criminal activity or rehab an abandoned building. The same applies to graffiti. If



Graffiti victim painted out the scribble.

it isn't painted out very soon after it occurs the message is sent that it's OK to do more. It says that our community has given up and we don't care what others think about us. It says its OK to litter or leave trash on the street. Is that the message we want to send?

How did Leland/Bayshore respond? Six businesses painted over the graffiti within the week, one property owner did so the very same day! This rapid response says we care about our community!

To keep blight in check: Call 28-CLEAN if you see graffiti, excessive litter, or trash on public property. Ask property owners to fix their broken windows.

Things You Should Have Known By Now

- * Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
- * Don't worry about what people think, they don't do it that often.
- * Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- * Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
- * If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.
- * It is easier to ask for forgiveness than to get permission.
- * For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.
- * If you look like your passport photo,

you probably need the trip.

- * A conscience is what hurts when all of your other parts feel so good.
- * No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
- * Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.
- * Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
- * There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
- * Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.
- * It's not your jeans that make your butt look fat.
- * If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved and never will achieve its full potential, that word would be "meetings."
- * There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness".
- * People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
- * You should not confuse your career with your life.
- * A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter isn't a nice person.
- * Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.

It Was 20 Years Ago Today...

Actually, it was Tuesday, July 29, 1986 at around 11:30 a.m. that the first issue of the *Visitation Valley Grapevine* rolled out at the now-defunct Garrett Press. And here we are, two more printers and 240 months later, still trying to make a go of it.

So with that said, our sincerest appreciation goes to all of the *Grapevine's* wonderful contributors of the past and present, along with all of our great readers.

-Len Appiano, Editor

Helpful Tips on Cutting Energy Costs This Summer

According to the Washington DC-based Alliance to Save Energy, "average households will spend more than \$5,000 on energy this year to power their homes and vehicles."

Is there something you can do to lessen the impact of rising energy costs on your wallet?

Yes! Curbing energy consumption in homes and businesses alike starts with a back-to-the-basics approach. For example:

1. Don't forget to use the fan.

Many people think that if they have air conditioning they don't need fans, and a surprising number of households simply don't have fans at all. Fans not only use less energy than air conditioners, but when ceiling fans are combined with air conditioning, they enable you to raise the thermostat on air conditioners and cut those AC costs.

Don't forget to turn the fans off when the room is unoccupied and do get Energy Star certified fans.

2. Open windows when you can.

Have you ever had the experience of taking an evening stroll on a cooling summer's night and hearing your neighbors' air conditioners working overtime?

Pay attention to maximizing cooling cross-ventilation by opening those windows during non-peak heat hours, and turning that wallet draining AC system off!

A common mistake that many owners of newer homes with French doors and similar outswing or inswing window and door designs make is in thinking that their home's windows and doors just can't be screened. Keeping bugs out then becomes a reason to keep the expensive AC on. Actually, all of a home's windows and doors can stay open if one uses either manual or motorized retractable screens. (Write to EnergyEfficiency @ Mirage Screen Systems.com for consultations on optimizing natural cross-ventilation with non-traditional and low-cost screening systems.)

Some ask questions like, "Is it more efficient to keep your house at 74 degrees in the summer, or constantly raise the temperature to 76 or 78 when you're not at home and then kick on the AC when you return?" Most definitely, the answer is to turn off that AC when you are not home.

3. Better yet, get programmable thermostats.

Ever run out the door rushing to work and forgetting to turn off the air conditioning system? Given the pace of modern life, this is more likely than not, and if you make a habit of it, you are spending money on cooling energy that you don't need to.

Programmable thermostats—and using them!—can spare you this expense, and keep your home at a more

comfortable even temperature.

Better yet, an innovative summer energy-minded home improvement that is becoming more popular is the use of motorized solar screens installed on the outside of the house, that either are activated with a sun sensor or a timer to roll down at peak sun hours to keep heat from entering the house. You can even tie these systems in with the programmable thermostats used for your air conditioner to truly optimize summer energy controls.

4. Barbecue.

Barbecue is not only about enhancing summer cuisine. Operating a natural gas barbecue costs more than 50 percent less than propane and does not heat up your home.

5. Summerize your fireplace.

For starts, make sure that the pilot light is off on your gas fireplace during summer months or any time when it is not being used regularly.

Make sure you use a fireplace plug or draftstopper of some kind. Studies have proven that homes with fireplaces use 30 percent more energy than homes without fireplaces. The fireplace plug or draftstopper is designed to reduce energy loss up the chimney from home heating or cooling when the fireplace is not in use.

6. Be laundry smart.

Switch to cold water when doing laundry because 85-90 percent of the energy used to wash your clothes is otherwise used to heat the water. Always wash full loads. If you are choosing a washer, always select a front loading model that will save water and energy — as much as 50 percent savings in energy and 40 percent savings in water.

Then, hang towels and other laundry on a clothesline when possible. If you must use the dryer, do all the laundry on the same day such that you will not have to re-heat the dryer for each load, but instead save energy because the dryer will already be hot for consecutive loads.

7. Seek low-cost energy improvements for the bathroom.

If you install water saving showerheads in each bathroom, you can cut water consumption by up to 70 percent, which also saves on the heat energy needed to heat water for bathing.

Dehumidistats connected to bathroom fans not only control moisture, and also cut energy costs because dry air heats more easily than moist air.

Preventing Dehydration in Older Adults

Maintaining adequate fluid balance is an essential component of health at every stage of life, yet can become more challenging as we grow older and more vulnerable to shifts in water balance that can result in dehydration.

Why does hydration matter?

In older adults, adequate fluid consumption has been associated with fewer falls, less constipation, better recoveries in orthopedic patients, reduced risk of bladder cancer in men and lower rates of fatal heart disease.

Dehydration can lead to constipation, falls, adverse effects from medications, urinary tract and respiratory infections, delirium, renal failure, seizure, hypo- and hyperthermia. In older adults with other health problems, it can precipitate emergency or repeated hospitalizations and increased mortality rates among older adults.

Who's At Risk?

*Age and ethnicity. From 1990 to 2000, hospitalizations for dehydration in older adults increased by 40 percent. Adults ages 85 years and older were three times more likely to have a diagnosis of dehydration than younger adults. Among older adults who maintain hydration, physical or emotional illness, surgery, trauma or higher physiologic demands may still increase the risk. Older black adults have higher prevalence rates of dehydration at the time of hospitalization than do older white adults.

*Certain psychiatric medications can cause dryness of the mouth, constipation, or urinary retention that can aggravate hydration status.

*A person's level of physical dependency and cognitive impairment can cause a person to be unable or forget to drink.

*Nursing homes. According to an article in the June issue of the *American Journal of Nursing*, nursing home residents have habits that might put them at risk, such as those who "will not drink" due to concerns about controlling their urine or memory problems that cause them to forget to drink.

"If nurses don't ensure older adults have an adequate fluid intake, we have seriously failed them," said Diana Mason, RN, Ph.D., FAAN, editor-in-chief, *American Journal of Nursing*. "For older adults, it's essential to have consistent fluid intake throughout the day, especially because they should not consume large amounts of fluid at one time."

As reported in a study conducted by Janet Mentis, Ph.D., APRN, BC,

assistant professor at the University of California Los Angeles School of Nursing, the following tips should be practiced for preventing dehydration:

*Identify and treat correctable causes of dehydration such as vomiting and diarrhea.

*Observe the color of the urine: Dark, concentrated urine can be a sign of dehydration.

*Provide glasses and cups that are not too large or heavy to handle, and have straws available at the bedside.

*During hot weather, be especially attentive to replacing excessive lost fluid.

*If you have an older family member or friend in a hospital, nursing home or other facility, make sure water is within reach.

For older adults, it's essential to have consistent fluid intake throughout the day, especially because they should not consume large amounts. **NAPS**

Mark Your Calendar! The Leland Avenue Street Fair



Music : Food : Children's Area : FUN

September 10th
11am to 6pm

Downtown

Visitation Valley

(Leland Ave from Bayshore to Alpha)



For More Info:

Call Crezia Tano: VVBOOM Program Manager

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Twentieth Anniversary Special

GRAPFVINE VISITACION VALLEY

Valley Traces History Back to 18th Century



This spacious view of Visitacion Valley in 1906 shows the Six Mile House in the background and the Bay Shore Hotel.

In 1775 when the first white men rowed a longboat from the Spanish ship San Carlos into Seashell Point (now Hunters Point) and set foot along the beach on the bay shore, they met a few Indians from villages to the south that are now Visitacion Valley and possibly Brisbane. These early inhabitants fished in the Bay and hunted game in the hills. Artifacts later found in and around the area of two quarries later excavated in the Valley proved this to be true.

However, it wasn't until 1776 that Juan Bautista de Anza traveled from the Mission at Monterey, under orders of the Viceroy of Spain, to select a location for a small settlement that would eventually become San Francisco, accidentally turned inland from the ocean and traveled along the western shore of the Bay, and came upon the peninsula that was part of the Valley.

Little else of the area is known until 1777, when according to tradition, some soldiers and Franciscan friars traveling the King's Highway from San Diego to the Presidio in San Francisco became lost in heavy fog. They wandered into the hills east of the highway to spend the night. In the morning when the fog cleared, they gazed down upon a beautiful valley with the Bay at its feet. These friars called the locality Visitacion Valley, as the date was July 2, the Feast of the Blessed Mother. In thanksgiving, a mass was offered with the altar a large rock. Today it is called Indian Rock, and is located in a backyard on Delta Street near Visitacion Avenue.

From that time on until 1835, the Valley was used as a pasture for longhorn cattle, horses, mules, sheep, pigs and goats belonging to Mission Dolores and the Presidio. During the Mexican period, the Mission released its controlled territory to private enterprise; anyone could apply for land grants.

And in 1839, Jacob Primer Lesse, an American from Ohio applied for a grant. He obtained 9,500 acres that took in Visitacion Valley to Brisbane. He named his grant the Rancho Canada Guadalupe, La Visitacion y Rodeo Viejo, and took possession by putting cattle on the land and building two houses - one located in Visitacion Valley where his mayordomo and Indian herders lived. A few years later when the U.S. government was established in California, the land grant was confirmed and he divided the acreage into smaller parcels.

Henry Schwerin, a German baker, arrived in 1850 and bought several hundred acres just below the San Francisco-San Mateo county line, just south of what is now Geneva Avenue. He had a large herd of dairy cows where the Cow Palace parking lot is now

located. Schwerin also started a horticultural nursery and sold flowers to the San Francisco Flower Mart. About this time, other settlers began to farm the area and thus began the large truck gardens and nurseries that flourished until World War II. For irrigation, picturesque windmills were used to pump the water.

Another holder of a large tract was Francis L.A. Pioche, who is said to have started San Francisco's tradition of fine restaurants. He imported 40 Parisian chefs and a boatload of French wines so San Franciscans could find out for themselves what frog's legs a la poulette tasted like, so they would know what vintage champagne was, and how to recognize the fragrance of Sazerac brandy... Monsieur Pioche brought French interests into the Valley when he borrowed six million francs from friends in Paris to finance several enterprises in California, including the purchase of land that became known as the French Gardens.

Today, Schwerin Street is in the general location of Henry Schwerin's original buildings, and Pioche Street is just outside Visitacion Valley.

In the mid-1850s and shortly after completing his term of office as first Governor of the State of California (1850-1851), Peter H. Burnett built a large home on Sunnyside Avenue close to where the present Church of the Visitacion is now located.

Just after the Civil War, members of the Rossi family moved into the area and acquired a number of acres a number of acres of rich farming land. They were later joined, in 1880, by John Rossi who came to California by way of Panama and then up the coast on a train operated by the French.

The Rossi family developed their property by hand labor into large vegetable gardens, later forming an association with other landowners and hiring farm hands to do the heavy work for them. Property owned by the Rossi family was part of the first section in the Valley to be divided into residential lots in the early 1900s.

The hills continued to be used as grazing land for cattle and horses for some 20 years longer as the family remained in the Valley. One son, Virginio, had a pharmacy on Leland Avenue until 1970, when his daughter took over. Another son's wife was the attendance officer for the Unified School District for years. A daughter became a well-known doctor, Dr. Jennings. The last of the Rossi family, Florence, died in 1983.

By 1860, the San Bruno Toll Road, a predecessor to Bayshore Boulevard was established, connecting with El Camino Real at San Bruno. A toll gate was located at the Seven-Mile House, just south of Geneva Avenue with its main traffic consisting of milkers who worked on

dairy farms in Visitacion Valley, Brisbane and South San Francisco. Vehicles then used were horses and wagons and the road was so narrow that a driver had to pull the wagon into the deep grass to let another wagon pass.

Industry came to Visitacion Valley in 1876 when investor W.C. Ralston organized the Union Pacific Silk Manufacturing Company with a capital of \$250,000. Every week the factory turned out about \$6,000 worth of silk ribbons. A few years later the company moved to larger facilities in South San Francisco.

By 1890, the Pacific Coal and Fertilizer Company was in operation close to the water's edge and was called "the bone yard" by the local residents. Also at that time, a brewery located on the present Bayshore Boulevard was selling pitchers of beer for five cents.

In the late 1890s, the cattlemen were ordered to remove the fences that blocked roads, and soon streets opened the Valley to roadhouses, restaurants and saloons. The Five-Mile House at Wilde and San Bruno avenues will always be remembered as the start of the streetcar line to Market Street.

Located at what is now Bayshore Boulevard and Sunnyside Avenue, "Pop" Blanken's Six-Mile House, was a popular meeting place for politicians, businessmen and professional people. This popular establishment was a resort, offering hotel accommodations, a restaurant and bar, livery stable and recreation such as: trap and rifle shooting, shuffleboard and bowling. Its true claim to fame, however, was a training headquarters for prize fighters - among these, Jim Jefferies, Jack Johnson, "Gentleman Jim" Corbett and Sam Langford. The original building stood until 1938 when it was torn down in order to create space for a garage and gas station.

Eisele's Restaurant was famous for its free steamed clams, served with beer. Clam beds were staked out and worked in an area now occupied by a former building of the Schlage Lock Company. Later, when the Southern Pacific Railroad laid track east of the road, the land gradually dried out and filled in.

There were several saloons at the county line. It was said that you could stand in one county and play the slot machines in the other. And for gamblers, money could be won - or lost - on cock fights at "Beefsteak Bill's." Rumor also has it that Mammy Pleasant had one of her houses in the Valley.

The two inns in the area - in addition to the Six-Mile House - were the Visitacion Valley Hotel at the county line and the Bay Shore Hotel at Leland Avenue and Bayshore.

See Page 16

A Valley Institution for 88 Years

Recognizing an obvious need for a permanent gathering place where her fellow residents could assemble, Florence Friedman helped establish the Visitacion Valley Community Center which today more than 88 years later remains an eminent institution in what has been affectionately known as the "valley of the good neighbor."

Visitacion Valley was little but a rural village when the 22-year-old Miss Friedman arrived in 1909 to teach all eight grades on a rotation basis at Visitacion Valley Elementary School.

"The Valley had nothing but hills, a one-way street and wooden planks for sidewalks," she later said of the area she had grown to love.

"It took an hour-and-a-half to get to the Center from downtown. We called the two dinkies the molasses special. You had plenty of time to get acquainted with your neighbors while you waited for them at the end of the line."

When the United States entered the First World War in 1917, the Army took over the nearby Southern Pacific Railroad yard, encamping troops to be readied for battle.

With a modest government allotment of 10 dollars a month, Miss Friedman volunteered her services as director of the War Camp Community Service Center, settling up facilities on March 14, 1918 in a small wooden building still standing at 101 Raymond Ave. at the corner of Alpha Street.

It's fireplace had been constructed by Valley residents from used bricks, and the building was elaborately decorated with wild flowers.

Neighboring families gathered at the once-abandoned building throughout the war's duration to hold pot luck dinners and social engagements for the soldiers in a forerunner of what would eventually develop into the USO.

With the signing of the armistice in November, 1918 came a termination of government funds, but the San Francisco Aquatic Park Recreation League soon agreed to sponsor the center's continuance with contributions from individual donors.

Miss Friedman had looked to the San Bruno Community Center and Telegraph Hill Center as models for the new Valley center she was about to convince them was a necessity. Growing interest in the activities at the quaint but cramped storefront quarters at Alpha Street made expansion eminent and she soon acquired a spacious site on the north side of Raymond Avenue.

Architect Dorothy Wormser donated a set of plans to the community calling for construction of a new complex on a site 75-by-100 feet. As described by Miss Friedman's published report announcing an eventful Sunday afternoon groundbreaking scheduled for April 23, 1922, "The plans call for a 50-foot frontage on Raymond Avenue which includes



Visitacion Valley Community Center was originally located at the southwest corner of Raymond Avenue and Alpha Street.

the club room, library, and club or meeting room. The domestic science room, clinic, office and main entrance and lobby face an interior court. The gymnasium and auditorium combined is 75-by-35 feet."

Miss Friedman's report also stressed that the new building's central section would be two stories high, containing modest living quarters for resident center workers.

More than 200 local workers labored tediously on Sundays and holidays to make the new center a reality. Generous local contractors and residents donated building materials and equipment.

Located at 66 Raymond Ave., the Visitacion Valley Community Center was officially incorporated in 1922 with charter membership in the San Francisco Community Chest, later to become United Way in the Bay Area.

Stressed M.A. Nolan, then principal of the elementary school, "Eyes yet unborn will thank the elders for the community center. How we ever lived without it we do not really know."

With the assistance of Dr. Adelaide Brown, Miss Friedman organized the first municipal well-baby clinic provided by the Department of Public Health. New classes were also added at the center to instruct Valley residents in cooking, home economics, woodshop, millinery, sewing and physical education.

Increased development of the surrounding properties in the 1930s again encouraged the community center's expansion. In 1938, a set of blueprints was finalized for the construction of a two-story building at 50 Raymond Ave. to house a ballroom, classrooms and administrative offices when completed in 1941.

Miss Friedman retired in 1959 after 41 years of continual service as VVCC's executive director, moving a few blocks away to Peabody Street after decades of residence in the Center's upstairs quarters. "I just couldn't live any place else," she once told a newspaper reporter of her passion for Visitacion Valley.

Miss Friedman remained active in Valley affairs until a 1981 hip injury necessitated her moving to the Jewish Home on Silver Avenue where she lived to be 95.



Visitacion Valley Community Center is located at 50 and 66 Raymond Ave.

Implosion of Geneva Towers Marks Revitalization of Valley

from Visitation Valley Grapevine, June 1998

And so the most anticipated day in recent neighborhood history finally arrived—May 16, 1998, 2:30 p.m.—end of an important chapter in the story of Visitation Valley. Both Geneva Towers, having resided side-by-side, out-of-place in a landscape of low-rise housing for more than three decades, would soon be imploded.

Residents having attended informational meetings organized by Imtech Communication had seen dozens of buildings imploded on video provided by Controlled Demolition, Inc., eventually subcontracted by Aman Environmental Construction, Inc. to make shorter work of the buildings' removal. Most left convinced that implosion was the best way to quickly remove the concrete giants to make way for modern low-rise homes and reestablish vitality in a neighborhood that had become economically stagnant.

At 12 noon, only the cheerful sounds of Visitation Valley's Neighborhood Day at the Elementary School were noticeable during a peaceful sunny Saturday. Just a mile away, the San Francisco Giants were taking batting practice at 3Com Park, ready to do battle with the New York Mets. Streets had already been barricaded at a radius of one block around the demolition site.

And then the world rushed in. Cars began parking, photographers and cameramen began selecting ideal spots, and helicopters hovered overhead.

At 2:30 p.m., all eyes were focused on both Geneva Towers, now reduced to shells. For several very long minutes there was silence. A young child had escaped a parent and wandered dangerously close to the complex. Yells from spectators came from the hills demanding the impending sentence.

Finally, a long siren sounded, soon followed by several loud explosions. A few seconds later, both buildings sank towards the ground like accordions. A large cloud of dust rose above the area, floated northeast, and dissipated as a collective cheer echoed throughout the Valley.

Both Art Agnos of HUD and Representative Nancy Pelosi joined guests in the yard at Visitation Valley Middle School, where the school band provided music during pre-implosion festivities. Speeches and song were over in plenty of time to allow those present to climb to higher ground for better viewing.

Petition ballots collected and counted Sept. 24, 1997 from the community concluded a three-month public outreach campaign designed to integrate community

preferences into policy decisions affecting Visitation Valley. Local students played a key role in involving their parents, relatives and neighbors, contributing to the success of the effort.

Almost 3,000 ballots showed the community's preference of demolition by implosion with 2,589 in favor of implosion, 216 in favor of a wrecking ball method and 48 who were either undecided or simply wanted the twin 20-story towers taken down by any means available. Cost estimates of the two demolition methods suggest the wrecking ball approach would have cost \$1 million more than implosion and would have taken six to eight months. Meanwhile, asbestos clean-up and other safety work continued on the Towers beneath white tarps.

When constructed in 1966, Geneva Towers was designed as housing for smaller working class families employed in businesses in the southern part of San Francisco and northern part of San Mateo County, including San Francisco Airport. But when the complex failed to attract enough residents, its owners turned toward federal subsidy.

By 1976, Geneva Towers had received full Project Based Section 8 funding with many residents being very low income larger families and nearly half of them youth. But its owners continued to neglect the buildings' maintenance needs and ignored HUD's repeated warnings to improve health and safety conditions. Power outages, one for 36 hours, occurred in October, 1986 as a lack of management attention and proper security allowed drug related activities to flourish in both buildings.

HUD finally had the property freed from bankruptcy proceedings and foreclosed in 1991, improved security, made improvements to occupied apartments, and removed a large amount of trash in just a few days. Geneva Towers drew national attention three years later when broadcast a segment about the complex on a news show.

In 1995, HUD and the City and County of San Francisco signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing \$74 million in federal and local resources to fulfill goals established by community leaders.

When the new housing to be called Heritage Homes is complete, qualified former Geneva Terrace residents will be given the first opportunity to move back. All 269 Towers families who had honored their leases were successfully relocated to new homes after the buildings were closed in October 1995, with 82 percent remaining in San Francisco.

Buildings Were Reduced to Concrete Rubble

For more than 30 years, residents of Visitation Valley were accustomed to the presence of Geneva Towers shadowing their homes and obliterating a spectacular view of the San Bruno Mountains.

Without a doubt, many had probably wished, at one time or another, that the twin 20-story buildings located at Sunnydale Avenue and Schwerin Street would be dealt the fate which they finally met shortly after 2:30 p.m. on May 16.

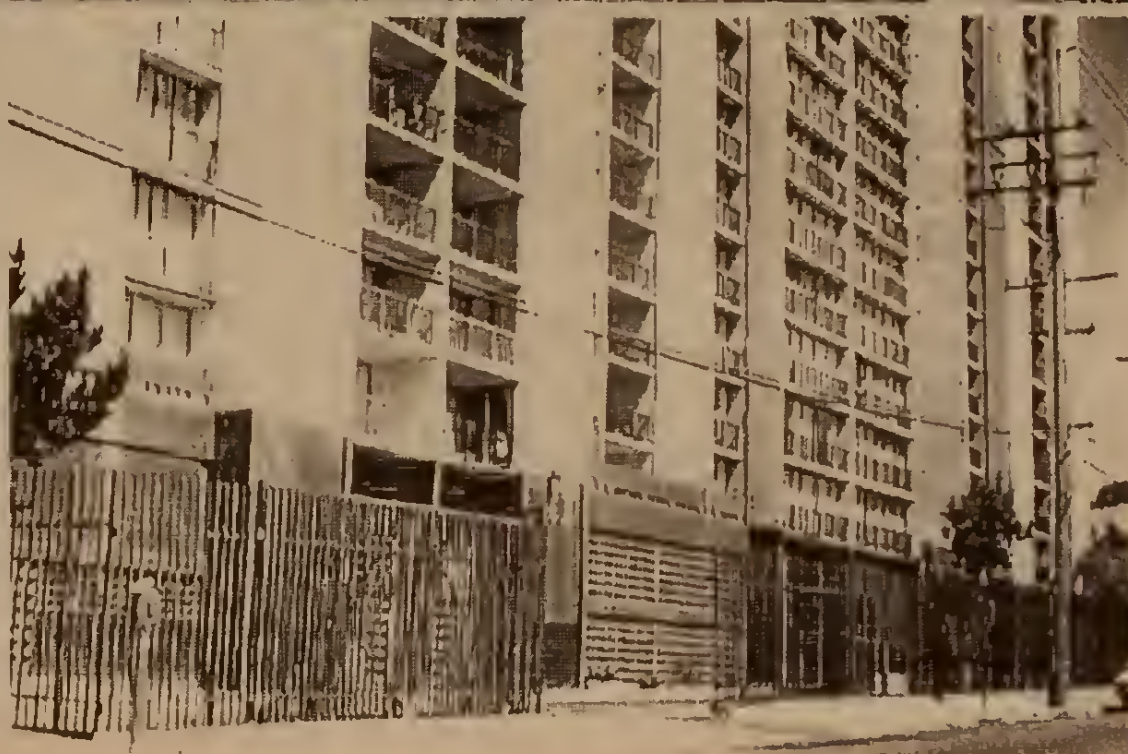
But to some, Geneva Towers had been home, with neighbors living together and remembering times much more cheerful than the negative publicity given the complex in the last two decades.

Some gathered at the site on an evening two days before the im-

plosion to recall those memories and pay tribute to those no longer a part of the community.

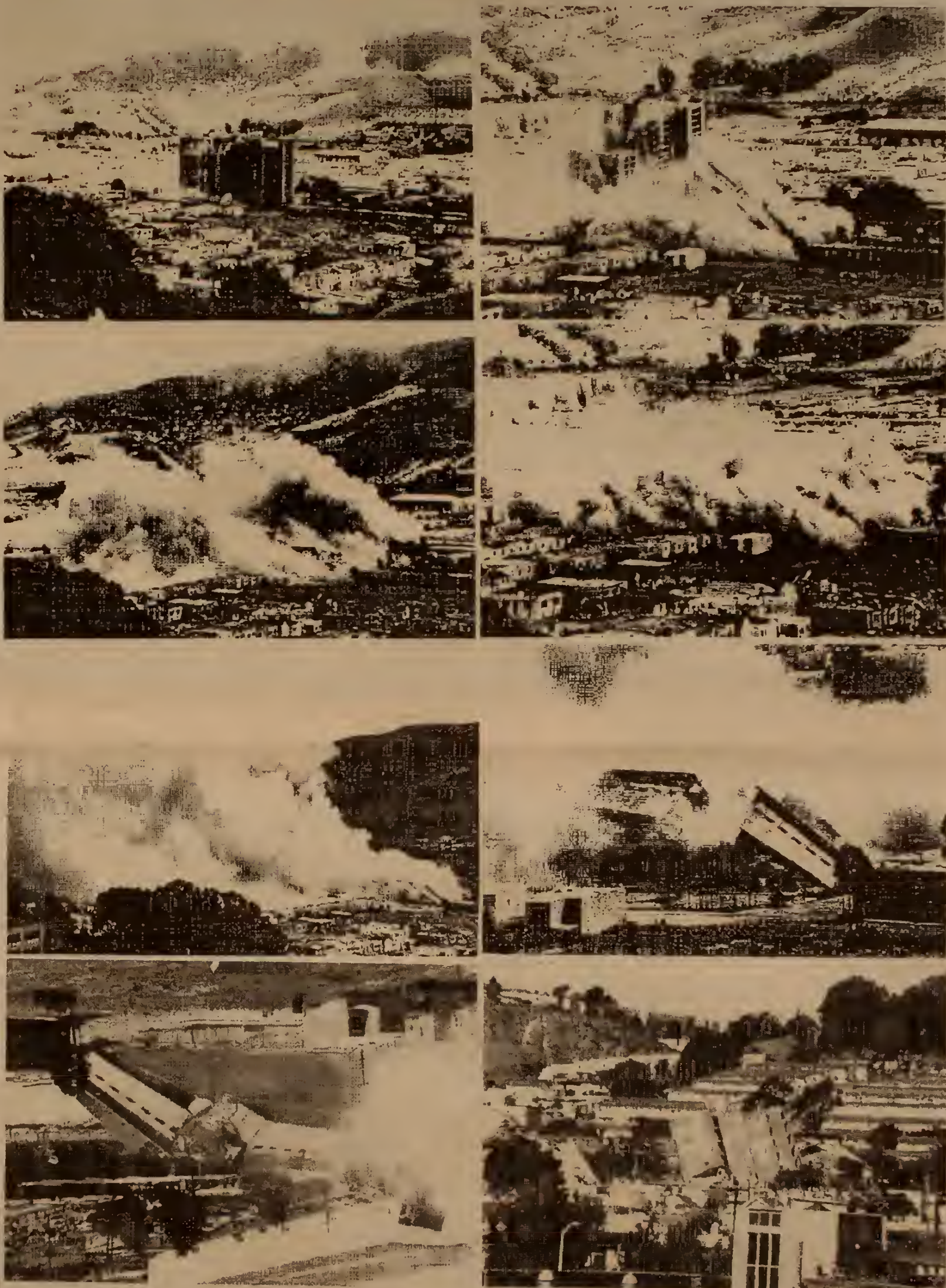
Twisted wreckage left by the demolition presented an eerie sight later that day to most who thought the buildings would always be there. Two sections of several stories from each building now angled to about 50 feet, eventually to be further broken down and removed in the following two months.

For residents living adjacent to the former buildings, the once swirling wind and darkness at midday have now been replaced by warm air and sunlight. They would soon have to be content that any traces of two huge skyscrapers having once been in their midst would now be relegated to photographs and memories.



For more than 30 years, the twin, 20-story Geneva Towers that dominated the neighborhood were located in the block bounded by Sunnydale and Garrison avenues, and Schwerin Street. Both buildings were imploded on May 16, 1998.

Thousands Watched as Geneva Towers Were Imploded on May 16, 1998



In just a matter of minutes, both Geneva Towers located at Sunnydale Avenue and Schwerin Street were reduced to huge piles of concrete rubble on the afternoon of May 16, 1998.

from Visitation Valley Grapevine, October 1997
Results of a first-of-a-kind neighborhood election to decide which demolition method was best for taking down Geneva Towers showed an overwhelming support for implosion.

Secretary's Representative Art Agnos of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the vote count Sept. 24 at a morning press conference held at Visitation Valley

Middle School (VVMS).

"More than 90 percent voting want us to implode rather than use a wrecking ball to take down Geneva Towers," said Agnos.

A final count of petition ballots collected from the community was conducted at the VVMS press conference which included San Francisco newspaper and broadcast journalists, HUD and city dignitaries, community leaders, school principals, students and teachers

from social studies and science classes who had studied the demolition process and community empowerment issues.

This event concluded a three-month public outreach campaign designed to integrate community preferences into policy decisions affecting Visitation Valley. And for the first time in a HUD outreach effort, the opinions of elementary and high school students were also included. Visitation Valley students played a

key role in involving their parents, relatives and neighbors, contributing to the success of the effort.

"This is the first time in the nation that community residents have been asked to decide how we will take down a dilapidated and unfit building," added Agnos. "It is a full recognition that the Visitation Valley residents have a right to participate in the decision that affect their lives, and that government has an obligation to honor that participation. We will

comply with the wishes of this community as expressed in this election/petition process."

Grand total of almost 3,000 ballots showed the community's preference of demolition by implosion with 2,589 in favor of implosion, 216 in favor of a wrecking ball method and 48 who were either undecided or simply wanted the twin 20-story towers taken down by any means available.

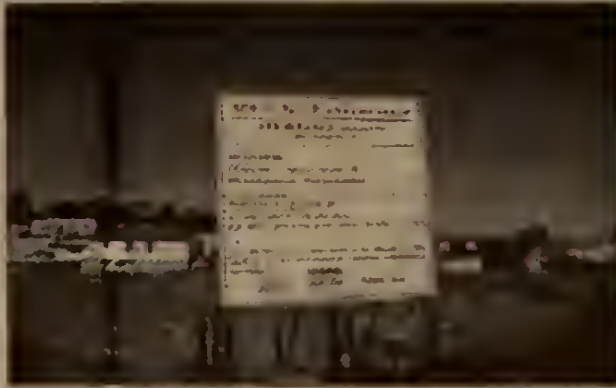
All Photos © 2006 by Ralph Orozquez

Replacing Geneva Towers With Heritage Homes



Following the May 16, 1998 implosion of the twin 20-story Geneva Towers, concrete rubble was hauled away for three months before construction began that fall on the replacement Heritage Homes, a development to eventually consist of 148 family housing units, a community center, a maintenance building and a child care facility for 45 children. There are now 24 four-bedroom units, 64 three-bedroom units, 41 two-bedroom units, and 22 one-bedroom units. The Village West Community Center later opened on Nov. 22, 2003 at 1099 Sunnydale Ave. to provide services and resources.

More Valley Housing With Britton Courts



With the removal of rubble continuing at the former Geneva Towers site still going on across the street, Mayor Willie Brown joined HUD's Art Agnos and a number of other officials on Aug. 13, 1998 in a large empty lot on Sunnydale Avenue for the official ground breaking of Britton Courts a housing development now composed of 92 units of family housing, a community center and a child care center that holds 40 children. Designed by the architectural team of Michael Willis and Associates, and Solomon Inc. Architecture and Urban Design there are 63 two-bedroom units, 21 three-bedroom units and 8 four-bedroom units of townhouse apartments and flats that are grouped in 32 attached two and three story buildings arranged in courtyard clusters. Each of the clusters share enclosed parking, a secured courtyard, a laundry room and garbage facilities.



Visitacion Valley Gets an Attractive Bayshore Boulevard



Commenced a few years earlier, construction on a new Third Street Light Rail line reached Bayshore Boulevard in Visitacion Valley during the later part of 2003. Planned for more than a decade, the new line extends from Fourth and King streets to a southern terminal at Bayshore and Sunnysdale Avenue. Sewer, electrical and waterline work, along with foundations for new streetlights preceded the actual excavation of the roadway. Lanes of traffic were effectively shifted around construction while rails were brought in and aligned along a new attractive center median adorned with palm trees. Two boarding platforms were also built along Bayshore: one at Arleta Avenue and the other at Sunnysdale.



Paving the Way for the New Third Street Light Rail Line



Along with the Third Street Light Rail construction, a new street configuration now has Blanken Avenue meeting Bayshore Boulevard at a right angle, rather than the old intersection which included Arleta Avenue. A mini-plaza was then built on the old roadway adjacent to the old Schlage Lock building. Widening also occurred on the Bayshore Boulevard overpass at the US101 freeway to accommodate new trackage. The rail line ends in a double-Y at the county line, leaving open the possibility of a future loop track to be constructed linking the system to a shared terminal with the CalTrain Bayshore Station. The Third Street Light Rail line is expected to be fully operational by the beginning of 2007.

A New Visitacion Valley Playground Clubhouse for the Neighborhood



After an older building was demolished, a new Visitacion Valley Playground Clubhouse at Leland Avenue and Cora Street was designed and built. It officially opened on Oct. 4, 2003.



Hans Schiller Plaza Designed as Part of Visitacion Valley Greenway

Part of the Visitacion Valley Greenway, six parcels of land running adjacent to Rutland Street, Hans Schiller Plaza on Leland Avenue at Peabody Street was named for a Bay Area architect and environmental activist. Construction of the park began in the fall of 2000. Mayor Willie Brown gave an encouraging presentation on Mar. 24, 2001 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

John King Senior Community a Valued Valley Resource

VISITACION VALLEY GRAPEVINE / AUGUST 2006 / 15



After years of community planning, construction commenced in late 1999 on the John King Senior Community at 500 Raymond Ave. at a site formerly housing the Early Years Academy preschool. Comprised of 90 one-bedroom units of low-income senior housing, a senior service center, and a manager's unit, many in the community attended a festive grand opening and ribbon-cutting on May 11, 2002. A little more than one year later, the John King Child and Family Development Center officially opened its doors with a gala celebration on Aug. 1, 2003.

Valley Traces History Back to 18th Century

From Page 7

The first school in the Sunny Vale Public School District opened in September, 1896. A few years later it was given the name of Visitacion Valley School—after a session in court when it was decided that the Valley should retain its old Spanish name of "Visitacion." However, when the new sign for the school was delivered, it was discovered that the Board of Education had misspelled the name, calling it "Visitation."

Florence Friedman, was one of the school's early 1900s instructors who remained a teacher until 1918, when she became the first director of the newly established Visitacion Valley Community Center. She remained director of the Community Center for 41 years until her retirement in 1959.

By 1905, "the finest building sites" could be purchased for as little as \$125 – \$1 down and \$1 a week. Charles A. Louis was the sales agent for this property, known as the Reis Tract, which was the largest housing development in the Valley at that time. He maintained an office on Leland Avenue and later in his home until his death in 1961. His daughter, Florence Louis, later continued in the real estate and insurance business. The Louis family also had a dry goods store.

Construction in Visitacion Valley gained momentum during the great fire and earthquake of Apr. 18, 1906. Damage was minor in the Valley, and refugees from the center of San Francisco crowded into the small houses of relatives and friends or lived in shacks in the area until they could build new homes. Some residents recalled that the butcher shop served as the distribution point for food and clothing for these homeless people.

A few years later, the Valley had lost a number of its temporary residents who returned to their former neighborhoods. Yet other families remained, and there was a slow but steady gain in population as newcomers discovered the charm of the small-town community. Those were the years that the local lumber yard thrived, supplying the building needs in the Valley and providing enough sawdust to fill Sunnydale Avenue from the present Bayshore Boulevard all the way to Mission Street.

In those days, roads were sandy in the summer and muddy in the winter, as very few streets had any kind of surfacing. To accommodate its customers, the local grocery store had its own delivery service. There were also two house-to-house vendors of fresh fruits and vegetables: Joe Marsala, and the father and son team of Steve and George Zucca, who later ran a gas station on Bayshore Boulevard.

During the next 20 years, Visitacion Valley continued to develop as truck gardens gave way to modern housing. The pattern of the neighborhood became established as the business section along Leland Avenue took

shape. The Valley had its own Volunteer Hose Company and a Fireman's Hall, which for a period housed the Golden Gate Kindergarten. Electricity was beginning to replace coal oil lamps and gasoline lanterns.

In 1906, St. James Presbyterian Church was built on Leland Avenue, followed in 1907 by the Catholic Church of the Visitation.

The "water works" for the community had its pumping station and office on Leland Avenue adjacent to the Bay Shore Hotel.

By 1910, the neighborhood was serviced by two streetcar lines that soon acquired assorted nicknames including: "Galloping Goose," and "Molasses Special." And Visitacion Valley was soon referred to as "Hesitation Valley" because of a long wait while streetcars were switched on a single track, not to mention the long delays at transfer points.

On May 18, 1905, the Visitacion Valley Improvement Club made a name for itself with many community projects and continued for years to promote many programs aimed for the betterment of the community. Longtime realtor and businessman Henry Schindler served for many years as its president and made his home on Schwerin Street. He also was president of the Valley's Merchants Association for more than two decades.

San Francisco's first motel was located in Visitacion Valley on the Burnett farm on Sunnydale Avenue. Called the San Francisco Auto Camp, it was located in a grove of trees with a garden setting. There were 40 cabins and plenty of tent space with accommodations for up to 300 cars. The Auto Camp remained until 1964, when it was torn down to construct the new Church of the Visitation. The Burnett home was torn down in 1964 to build the parish school and in the process, 200 trees were destroyed – one planted by President McKinley, another by Admiral Dewey, and some by many other famous Americans.

For entertainment, various clubs and service organizations had whist parties, dances, minstrel shows and bazaars at the Bay Shore Hall above Anderson's Coal Yard on Leland Avenue, at the Fireman's Hall on Wilde Avenue, at the Alpine Hall on Raymond Avenue, and in the Six-Mile House gymnasium.

There were "flickers" at five cents a show at the Nickelodeon on Raymond Avenue. The old movie theater was constructed of sheet metal with fireproof walls embossed with designs. There was a player piano and a blue mercury lamp out front to attract attention. A major feature was Amateur Night.

Children hiked through the hills and picnicked on all the scenic ridges. And it was always great spot in the spring to slide down hill over the slippery grass in a large card-



Leland Avenue, the main business thoroughfare in Visitacion Valley, has seen a number of changes over the years.

board carton. They waded and swam in the Bay, watched the dismantling of old ships from the "ships' graveyard" at the Johnson-Brown wharf, and took pride in showing off the local curiosity: a private home called the "boathouse," as its paneled walls were made of doors salvaged from ships.

Youngsters earned extra spending money by catching frogs and gathering watercress which they sold to the local restaurants and by peddling bouquets of wild flowers from door-to-door. Their bank accounts also grew steadily as they made weekly deposits through a school savings program sponsored by the Bank of Italy (later to become the Bank of America). Parents took advantage of this accommodation by adding to their children's deposits at a time when there was no other banking service in the Valley.

Sports activities included basketball in the gymnasium of the Presbyterian Church and baseball on a diamond near the corner of what is now Bayshore Boulevard and Blanken Avenue.

In 1905, the Southern Pacific Company started to build a tunnel adjacent to Bayshore Boulevard and to fill the land along the Bay. First track of the Bayshore cutoff was laid by 1907, with a roundhouse completed by 1917.

A gas plant in the Valley – later to be known as Pacific Gas and Electric Company – was built by 1905 just south of the county line. The building still stands today at the southeast corner of Geneva Avenue and Schwerin Street.

The Bodinson Manufacturing Company bought its first property in the area in 1924 and started to manufacture custom mining machinery and material handling equipment the following year.

The Schlage Company purchased its first 2.5 acres of property from Bodinson and completed its factory building by June, 1925 and administrative headquarters shortly thereafter. In 1926, its name was changed to Schlage Lock Company, a fixture in Visitacion Valley for 75 years.

Just to the east of the Valley were many acres of empty land where houses started to spring up during the 1930s, some with blueprints that might have previously been used for residential construction in Hollywood, with the quaint new neighborhood dubbed Little Hollywood.

Boasting a concrete and steel roof covering nearly six acres, the Cow Palace was completed just south of the county line along Woolbridge Street (now Geneva Avenue) in 1941 and held its first Grand National Rodeo in November of that year.

Also in 1941, San Francisco completed construction of the Sunnydale Projects, a large housing complex on the Valley's west side that later became home to many returning servicemen after World War II.

Visitacion Valley Elementary School completed construction of its new facility on Schwerin Street in 1936. Wilson High School, which

was built in 1963 on Mansell Street, later became John and Sala Burton High in 1994.

In 1971, Visitacion Valley Middle School was completed along Raymond Avenue on a hill overlooking the neighborhood..

For years, beginning in 1966, the Valley's skyline was dominated by two 20-story buildings at Sunnydale Avenue and Schwerin Street known as Geneva Towers. They served mostly as low-income housing until their removal on May 16, 1998 to make way for the low-rise Heritage Homes. Just north, Britton Courts were soon opened along Sunnydale Avenue, followed in 2002 by the John King Senior Community on Raymond Avenue.

In 2001, Hans Schiller Plaza opened on Leland Avenue at Peabody Street as part of the Visitacion Valley Greenway, a series of mini-parks built on city land once known as the Reis Tracts.

To the west of Visitacion Valley is McLaren Park, a 315-acre setting, in the process, by degree, to become a thing of beauty with tennis courts, a golf course, and bike and hiking paths.

History adapted from archives of Schlage Lock Company

Printing the Latest Grapevine



For nearly 16 years, the Visitacion Valley Grapevine has been printed at Howard Quinn Company. Each month, the newest issue rolls around on the press ...



... before copies are counted and bundled by the printing crew for delivery.

How Some of Visitacion Valley's Streets Were Named

Visitacion Valley is a compact community comprised of many streets, alleys and cul-de-sacs. Almost everybody living in the neighborhood knows where these various roads are located, but not many residents are aware of how their streets were named.

*Visitacion Avenue, for example, is named after the Valley to commemorate the appearance of the Virgin Mary to Saint Elizabeth. Visitacion Valley was originally a land tract granted to Jacob P. Lesse in 1839 for the construction of houses.

*Bayshore Boulevard simply signifies that the shore of San Francisco Bay once reached the location of this thoroughfare.

*Geneva Avenue was named for a city in New York which had been named for a popular Swiss city.

*Burr Avenue was named for Mayor Ephram Burr whose administration consolidated the City and County of San Francisco in the mid-1850s.

*Garrison Avenue is named for San Francisco's second and fourth mayor, Cornelius Garrison, elected to his first term a mere six months upon arriving on the West Coast.

*Argonaut Avenue was named for the Argonauts, early San Francisco settlers who battled deplorable living conditions while searching for gold.

*Alpha and Delta streets respectively denote the first and fourth letters of the Greek alphabet.

*Calgary Street represents the Canadian city named after the Gaelic word for "clean running water."

*Castillo Street simply means "little castle" in Spanish.

*Cora Street was named for gambler Charles Cora who was hanged by vigilantes for killing a U.S. marshal.

*Goettingen Street is named after a German town.

*Holyoke Street represents the learning institution dedicated to explorer Elizer Holyoke.

*Pasadena Street was named for the southern California city. Pasadena is

a Native American word meaning "crown of the valley" in Chippewa.

*Peninsula Avenue runs in the same direction as the San Francisco peninsula.

*Pueblo Street is named after the Spanish word for "town."

*Racine Lane represents the city and county in Wisconsin whose name is French for "root"

*Rutland Street represents the Vermont city named for an English town.

*Santos Street is named for the Portuguese meaning of "saints."

*Sparta Street historically represents the Greek military town which defeated Athens in the Peloponnesian War of 404 B.C.

*Sunrise Way was named for its spectacular view of a valley sunrise.

*Tunnel Avenue is located near Southern Pacific railroad tracks which eventually enter a tunnel.

*Wabash Terrace is named for a Native American word meaning either "shining white" or "water over white stone."

Implosion of Geneva Towers Marks Revitalization of Valley



Two buildings were reduced to concrete rubble.



The June 1998 Grapevine described the May 16 implosion of Geneva Towers.

1986
*Visitation Valley Grapevine publishes very first edition on July 29 with a 4-page August issue.
*San Francisco Alive, Mayor Dianne Feinstein's anti-graffiti and litter committee announced a scheduled Aug. 2 Visitation Valley campaign.
*More than 200 Valley and Sunnydale residents were joined by Mayor Feinstein, volunteers from Delancy Street, S.F. Youth Conservation Corps, S.F. Police Dept., S.F. Sheriff Dept. and graffiti artists from S.F. Youth Guidance Center in S.F. Alive's clean-up campaign.
*Visitation Valley Senior Park and Community Garden received Honorary Mention and a \$100 check from the American Community Gardening Association, awarded for A New Garden in the Western Region.
*An Oct. 12 power outage at 1.18 p.m. blacked out 2500 Geneva Towers residents for 36 hours, and continually the following week.
*Visitation Valley Middle School (VVMS) inaugurated its outdoor science program with flower and vegetable gardens in McLaren Park.
*Several neighborhood merchants participated in the Valley's first holiday window decorating contest, with Bernice's Custom Drapery Shop the winner.
1987
*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Middle School on Girard St. was dedicated Jan. 15.
*A memorial service was held February 1 at St. James Presbyterian Church for Rev R. Mark Conradt - parish pastor from 1971 to 1984 - who died in New York following a long illness.
*A grant of more than \$15,000 was approved by the S.F. Foundation for the Geneva Towers Recreation Program.
*Former Mission High football great Mike Klotovich was among ten members of the 1987 S.F. Prep Hall of Fame to be honored at a special May banquet at USF Commons.
*Mayor Feinstein met with concerned Valley residents at the Sunnydale Auditorium May 12 to investigate and resolve complaints about Geneva Towers management and an increase of crime, vandalism and drug abuse.
*Three new sets of stop signs were approved for the Valley's business area to control traffic and protect pedestrians.
*Motorists coming from the peninsula into the Valley were advised to take the Brisbane exit to avoid Sept. 18 traffic from Pope John Paul II's special service at Candlestick Park.
*Camp Fire started its Visitation Valley group October 13 with the theme: "Every kid is a winner."
*After months of painting, the Library Mural on Leland Avenue and Desmond Street was dedicated Nov. 7.
*San Francisco teens - hoping for jobs in the Mayor's In-School Youth (MISY) employment program - joined community leaders for a press conference on the steps of S.F. City Hall when funding was out.
*Visitation Valley Elementary School (VVES) received a Distinguished Elementary School Award for 1987 from the State Department of Education.
*Schlage Lock employees donated a total of nearly \$85,000 to United Way of the Bay Area.
1988
*A collection and disposal facility for household hazardous wastewas opened near Beatty Road for City residents.
*SFPD began escorts and members of the Guardian Angels began riding busses on the 15 Third St. line in the Valley after several rock peltings and a gun attack in February.
*After 14 years of planning, a new crosswalk was installed across Bayshore Blvd. at San Bruno Ave.
*Students at VVMS celebrated completion of their Sports of Hope mural located in the gym.
*Annual Cleanup Day was scheduled June 25 in the Valley.

*A memorandum of understanding from Executive Park let residents of both 94124 and 94134 zip codes have first opportunity of jobs, both construction and permanent.
*More than 900 volunteers came to Visitation Valley and OMI neighborhoods Apr. 27 to spruce-up residences of low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners.
*After several years of wrangling, HUD obtained a court judgement allowing in to assume management of Geneva Towers
*VVES honored its teachers, staff and volunteers during Teachers Appreciation Week in May.
*Regi Oliver became VVCC's new music instructor in June.
*Sunnydale's Gang Prevention Program was named finalist for the H.B. McDaniel Group Award
*Local merchants honored longtime Valley merchant, realtor and activist Henry Schindel at a July 21 breakfast meeting
*Members of the Visitation Valley Neighborhood Association gathered at a special meeting Sept. 13 to debate Hospice by the Bay's proposed Leland Avenue Residence - a home for people with life-threatening illnesses - to occupy the former Maxicare site.
*Mayor Agnos appointed 30 young leaders to a citywide Youth Forum.
*Sunnydale's Just Say No to Drugs Club was presented with a plaque Oct. 22 for first place honors in the S.F. Youth Fair parade.
*Residents of Geneva Towers and Sunnydale came together Nov. 6 for a Cease Fire candlelight vigil to take their neighborhood back from drug pushers and gang bangers.
*Valley-Wide Parents' Council formed Dec. 3 to help parents work together with schools, recreation centers, daycare and other programs their children attend.
1992
*El Dorado School students spent Feb. 28 cleaning a section of Ocean Beach.
*VVES students held two multicultural assemblies to share cultures and celebrate ethnic diversity
*Darleen Wong, instructor at VVES for 35 years, was awarded Elementary School Teacher of the Year May 2 by S.F. State University Alumni Association
*Southeast Health Center sponsored a Father's Day Health Fair June 6 at VVCC.
*El Dorado School Neighborhood Betterment Council held its first barbecue June 27 at Girard St. and Harkness Ave.
*Visitation Valley's six teams of the Midnight Basketball League began play in August.
*Construction began in September on 563 new condominiums at Executive Park.
*Shanani Bardell was named Miss Sunnydale 1993.
*VVES's new gym floor was dedicated Nov. 20.
*Capt. Harlan Wilson assumed command of Ingleside Station in November.
1993
*After more than 35 years in the Valley, Boulevard Cleaners announced in would close in March
*With its 75th anniversary Mar. 14, VVCC celebrated its founding with a gala potluck celebration where State Senator Milton Marks presented the center with a special plaque.
*Mayor Frank Jordan brought grim budget news to a Valley meeting at Wilson High Mar. 18
*Gigi Hithe was elected Valley representative of S.F. Children's Services for the 1993-94 fiscal year.
*Ready for Work started at VVCC to provide job readiness training for youth ages 14 to 17.
*Muni presented plans to Valley residents Apr. 29 for a light rail system through the Bayshore corridor.
*Valley residents attended a special May 25 meeting with S.F. Supervisors to describe neighborhood problems.
*Preliminary plans to expand Southeast Community Hazardous Waste Collection Facility were discussed at a July 6 meeting
*Coalition members began a vigil at Geneva Towers July 21 to protest what they felt were unreasonable living conditions.
*More than 20 people, including eight firefighters - one fatally - were injured when an Aug. 14 fire destroyed a third floor Geneva Towers apartment.
*More than 100 volunteers from 10 companies assisted staff at VVCC, Sept. 13 to 17 during Week of Caring.
*Burning noses, watering eyes and nausea resulted from a mysterious gas that sent some Wilson High students and staff to the hospital Sept. 22.
*VVES began participating in a nationally recognized reading program called Success for All.
*Rose Donovan was awarded Volunteer of the Year honors at a Salvation Army Council holiday party Dec. 21.
1994
*Geneva Towers residents had a gala farewell party Jan. 21 for departing Executive Manager Arthur Hutton.
*A second annual Dr. Vernetta P. Caldwell Health Fair was held Feb. 26 at Geneva Towers.
*S.F. School District announced Sala and John Burton High School would shift to the Wilson campus on Mansell St. that fall, with Wilson High

phased-out after existing classes graduated
*Visitation Valley Task Force (VVTF) held its initial meetings Feb. 22 and Mar. 1.
*Girls Against Gangs began producing their monthly cable television shows.
*VVMS appealed to a U.S. District Court to halt its eventual reconstitution.
*Local residents attended the Valley's first National Emergency Response Team (NERT) meeting in April.
*Captain Michael Dower became new chief of Ingleside Police Station
*Visitation Valley celebrated its tenth annual Street Fair on May 21.
*VVTF released a preliminary draft of its community survey results at a regular June 20 meeting.
*Mayor Jordan joined S.F. Housing Authority staff and Sunnydale residents July 20 for unveiling of a refurbished model building.
*Four VVES students won awards for excellence in science and math in the annual Science Exposition at Whitney Young Center.
*Reconstituted VVMS began planning its fall semester under new Principal John Flores with briefings and a tour of the Valley
*Local residents requested longer hours and better books at a Sept. 1 library hearing at the Visitation Valley Branch.
*HUD recommended demolition of Geneva Towers and their replacement with low-rise housing at a Sept. 19 VVTF meeting.
*A Vista Overlook project was announced for McLaren Park
*Recognized for its best improved volunteer school program, VVES became one of three S.F. institutions to receive the Honor Roll of Schools awarded from S.F. School Volunteers
*Regular VVTF monthly meetings were moved to the fourth Friday of every month.
*St. James Presbyterian Church held a successful second annual fair.
*Elections voted in a new student council at VVMS
*VVTF members presented a Neighborhood Strategic Plan to the S.F. Redevelopment Agency on Dec. 6
1995
*Neighbors and friends in Visitation Valley got together January 16 for a community-wide Clean-up Campaign to remove trash from McLaren Park and other areas of the neighborhood.
*Staff and students of VVES gathered at the corner of Bayshore Boulevard and Sunnydale Avenue Jan. 24 for the unveiling of their Neighborhood Image Enhancement billboard.
*VVTF members unanimously agreed Feb. 25 to request a bilingual officer to be assigned in the Valley.
*Two crucial meetings were held Apr. 18 and 20 to discuss a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and its relation to proposed expansion of an existing household hazardous waste facility on Tunnel Avenue.
*VVMS introduced two new school programs: KeySEC, an association of parents, teachers and staff, students and community members, and Viz Kids, an after school program.
*Residents of both Little Hollywood and Visitation Valley unanimously opposed proposed expansion of a household hazardous waste facility on Tunnel Avenue at an Apr. 18 meeting at VVCC to revise an EIR.
*Ruth Jackson was named Woman of the Year for 1995 by the Delta Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
*St. James Presbyterian Church held a joyous May 14 celebration on Mother's Day, as well as spirited festivities June 18 on Father's Day.
*VVTF members agreed on May 27 to meet in weekly sessions to develop benchmarks for inclusion in a request for government funding
*Visitation Valley held its 11th annual Festival on May 20.
*Acknowledging decades of devotion to his community, Henry Schindel received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from John F. Kennedy University on June 17.
*New English as a Second Language (ESL) classes were announced for Visitation Valley commencing Aug. 21.
*Schlage Lock began testing the soil on it premises for contamination.
*HUD presented \$11.8 million to the Housing and Community Development Corporation (HCDC) at a July 19 Geneva Towers meeting to help build new Valley housing.
*McLaren Park was selected as one of three potential sites for an underground reservoir to provide emergency supplies of water for firefighting, park irrigation and industrial use.
*Geneva Towers were officially closed for demolition on Aug. 31.
*VVTF members agreed children and youth, education and training leading to employment, and a stronger economic base were top priorities needing improvement in Visitation Valley
*VVMS replaced its viking mascot with a falcon logo
*Valley neighbors gathered Sept. 16 at VVCC for a combined garage sale
*Plans were commenced to establish a Beacon Center at VVMS
*Representatives from Muni and both Potrero and Ingleside police stations were present at a Sept. 23 VVTF meeting listening to residents voice their concerns

VISITACION VALLEY GRAPEVINE - AUGUST 2006 - 17
*Neighbors gathered to give Visitation Valley Community Garden a cleaning Oct. 21 prior to its official reopening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony
*At an Oct. 28 meeting, VVTF members and concerned residents approved five benchmarks: after school programs, child care, economic development, job training and placement, and ESL, as vital areas to be developed
*St. James Presbyterian Church held a successful bazaar on Nov. 18.
*About 50 residents from Visitation Valley were provided with a Muni bus to attend a Residents of South East Sector (ROSES) meeting on Nov. 2.
*Greetings in five languages welcomed visitors to the Dec. 2 grand opening of the Village, a new association of several vital Visitation Valley services located at 333 Schwenn St.
*A Red Cross Family Support Center opened Dec. 7 at 1704 Sunnydale Ave.
1996
*Burglars broke into St. James Presbyterian Church around Jan. 14, taking \$10,000 in church property
*Meetings of the Southeast Communities - Norcal - City Agencies Forum were held Jan. 18 and Mar. 7 at Executive Park to resolve problems caused by the existing waste facility on Tunnel Avenue to the surrounding neighborhood.
*Architects attending a Jan. 27 VVTF meeting presented plans for 91 low rise homes along Sunnydale Avenue adjacent to Geneva Towers.
*Fresh Start Farms and VVMS formed a partnership creating a commercial farm on school grounds
*Many Visitation Valley residents and merchants joined other concerned citizens at a meeting of a newly-appointed Police Commission at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School on Feb. 28.
*Jeff Mori replaced Anthony Lincoln as director of the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Their Families
*VVES celebrated black history and the lunar new year in a combined multicultural assembly on Feb. 15.
*Geneva Valley Development Corporation (GVDC) was created to plan new replacement housing for Geneva Towers.
*St. James Presbyterian Church celebrated its 90th anniversary Apr. 28 with special appearances by two former pastors
*More than 1,400 signatures were gathered on a petition calling for improved safety measures in the Valley.
*Visitation Valley held its 12th annual Festival on May 18.
*In a festive program, a long-awaited Beacon Center at VVMS, 450 Raymond Ave. opened on June 10
*St. Luke's Hospital announced it will open a Visitation Valley clinic by late summer.
*Catholic Charities announced plans to open a licensed care facility by the end of 1996 at 141 Leland Ave., the former Maxicare site.
*Mayor Willie Brown joined HUD's Andrew Cuomo on June 17 to announce the San Francisco had received \$41.9 million to fund various neighborhood projects.
*A VVTF safety subcommittee revealed plans to establish police report desks at three vital Valley locations: VVCC, the Village and the Beacon Center at VVMS.
*Seven students in a youth painting class at VVCC won an award for participating in the 'Young Audiences' spring art exhibition Faces of San Francisco: Faces of Change at Levi Strauss and Co.
*In celebrating its tenth anniversary in August both the Visitation Valley Grapevine and Editor Len Appiano received certificates of achievement from State Senator Milton Marks.
*Visitation Valley Task Force (VVTF) members voted July 27 to establish a special Communication and Transportation committee to improve neighborhood outreach and mobility.
*Visitation Valley Middle School (VVMS) became recipient of 151 computers donated and upgraded through the Detweiler Foundation.
*A revitalized Valley Merchants Association held its first meeting Sept. 28 to discuss ways on improving commerce in the neighborhood.
*Neighbors began circulating a petition in September requesting that Visitation Valley be included in only one police precinct.
*More than 150 students from Visitation Valley Elementary School (VVES) came to their school garden Oct. 5 to clear weeds, remove unwanted vegetation and dedicate the garden's new name.
*Fresh Start Farms worked with VVMS students in establishing a vegetable garden.
*St. Luke's Health Care Center van made several trips to Visitation Valley prior to the October opening of the new Leland Avenue Clinic. More than 160 guests attended a festive dinner celebrating the opening Dec. 6 at VVCC.
*VVES held its Winter Festival on Dec. 19
1997
*Angry residents of both Little Hollywood and Visitation Valley voiced their concerns about operations at the Norcal Solid Waste Recycling and Transfer Station during a VVTF meeting Jan. 25
*Visitation Valley Neighborhood Watch described its safety and patrol program during a Feb. 22 community meeting. See Page 18

From Page 17

*An account was established at the Visitation Valley branch of the Bank of America to assist a family stricken by a devastating fire which gutted their Delta Street home on Mar. 19.

*Community Boards held two forums on respect for the neighborhood.

*VWTF adopted its bylaws on Apr. 26.

*VMS announced that its students would be wearing uniforms beginning with the Fall 1997 semester.

*Visitation Valley held its 13th annual Street Festival on May 17.

*HUD began working with Imtech Communication of Berkeley to explore options for the demolition of Geneva Towers.

*Key leaders from the Visitation Valley community, businesses, neighborhood associations and educational institutions met July 2 at Visitation Valley Community Center to discuss expansion of a recently formed steering committee for community outreach on the demolition of Geneva Towers.

*Armed with a large aerial photograph of Visitation Valley used to illustrate various perimeters and identify residents' homes, representatives from both Arman Environmental Construction, Inc. and Controlled Demolition Incorporated (CDI) spoke July 15 at the second Steering Committee Meeting handling community outreach for Geneva Towers.

*Members of Visitation Valley's business community met with a City representative July 12 in an initial meeting to discuss improvements to the neighborhood's main business thoroughfare.

*More than 75 signatures were gathered on a local petition in support of Bart Ribotta, popular senior swimming instructor at Coffman Pool, to keep him from being replaced.

*Results announced Sept. 24 of a first-of-a-kind neighborhood election to decide which demolition method was best for taking down Geneva Towers showed an overwhelming support for implosion.

*Friends of Visitation Valley Parks (FVVP) hosted its first Valley Greenway Rally and Community Picnic Sept. 6 in the Senior Park on Arleta Avenue.

*Affirming the real achievements of families in a Family Community Partnership program while honoring the efforts of all who fight poverty, neighbors from both Potrero Hill and Visitation Valley came together Oct. 17 at the Sunnydale Auditorium for On the Road to Success.

*Members of the S.F. Public Utilities Commission (PUC) further detailed plans to improve Sunnydale's inadequate sewer system in a community meeting Dec. 11 at Schlage Lock.

*Neighbors were awakened at 2:30 a.m. Christmas Day to find a blazing inferno in a home at 450 Sawyer St.

1998

*Visitation Valley merchants thought too many people hung around the business area, a problem exacerbated by a prevalence of crime, dirty streets and too many shops selling similar wares, according to a survey conducted by the San Francisco State University's Public Research Institute and the Mayor's Office of Community Development.

*Beneath a large banner proudly proclaiming, *Our Pride is Back*, students of Visitation Valley Middle School (VVMs) combined music and verse in a spirited afternoon Black History Assembly on Feb. 27 which featured enlightening words from guest speaker Mayor Willie Brown.

*Visitation Valley Task Force members were presented with a plan Feb. 28 to convert the area's Street Festival into a new annual celebration tentatively called Visitation Valley Neighborhood Day.

*San Francisco's Board of Supervisors brought their regular weekly meeting to Visitation Valley on Mar. 2, where neighborhood residents packed the Sunnydale Auditorium to voice their concerns about local issues.

*Demolition was scheduled to begin Apr. 13 on the clubhouse located at the northeast corner of Visitation Valley Playground.

*In the waning hours of the soon to be imploded Geneva Towers, local residents got together May 16 at the Elementary School to celebrate Visitation Valley's first Neighborhood Day with entertainment, food and fun.

*An important chapter in the story of Visitation Valley came to an end May 16 - just a little after 2:30 p.m. - when both Geneva Towers, out-of-place in a landscape of low-rise housing for more than three decades were imploded.

*After a year of strategic planning, Visitation Valley's revived Merchants Association finally found itself off the ground with an official endorsement by Mayor Willie Brown during the Leland Avenue Community Meeting on July 23 at WVCC.

*With the removal of rubble continuing at the former Geneva Towers site across the street, Mayor Willie Brown joined HUD's Art Agnos and a number of other officials Aug. 13 in a large empty lot on Sunnydale Avenue for the official ground breaking of the Britton Street Family Housing.

*San Francisco submitted a request to HUD on Sept. 17 for released funds to begin construction of the Heritage Homes project at 222 Schwerin St.

*Visitation Valley Middle School received na-

tional recognition by President Bill Clinton and Secretary of Education Richard Riley in a new publication from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE).

*Rapid construction of new homes continued in the Hester Heights area along a new Valley street called Lois Lane.

*U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Director Janice Lachance presented Principal Vincent Chao of Visitation Valley Elementary School with 44 computers on Oct. 16 donated by the U.S. Department of Education.

*Discovery of a local labor union plan to picket the long-awaited Oct. 29 Heritage Homes ground breaking caused both Mercy Charities Housing (MCH), California and the Geneva Valley Development Corporation (GVDC) to postpone the event.

*Police called to investigate an incident near the intersection of Sunnydale Avenue and Sawyer Street early morning on Oct. 29 found a taxi with its motor running, headlights off, and the driver draped over the steering wheel with a fatal bullet hole in his head.

*Vernon Long, director of The Village, served as master of ceremonies Nov. 6 during mid-day festivities as several students celebrated their graduation from a class of the Visitation Valley Jobs, Education and Training program.

*Inspirational music and good food were a part of the festivities Nov. 24 as a packed house at the Visitation Valley Community Center auditorium turned out for Roy Barker "Giving Thanks" '98.

1999

*After more than 73 years in Visitation Valley, Schlage Lock Company announced it would phase out its Bayshore Boulevard manufacturing location during a several month period in 1999.

*Mayor Willie Brown was special guest at Visitation Valley's Lunar New Year Community Celebration on Feb. 25 which featured cultural performances and cuisine.

*More than 100 Visitation Valley neighbors and Mayor Willie Brown attended a candlelight Vigil Apr. 6 in memory of Sugi Kim, co-owner of the KC Market at 400 Wilde Ave. who was shot to death by a masked robber three days earlier after complying with his demands for money and liquor.

*Home Depot presented its plans to the Visitation Valley Task Force on Mar. 27 for a newly-constructed 107,000 square-foot store - its first in San Francisco - to be built on the present site of Schlage Lock Company.

*Visitation Valley Community Center was one of seven organizations honored May 26 at Yerba Buena Center for the Performing Arts with the 25th Anniversary Community Institution Award.

*Two men wearing bandannas to conceal their faces robbed the Visitation Valley Post Office just before noon on June 30.

*Friends, family and neighbors were on hand at the John King Senior Center July 2 when Wells Fargo Bank presented the organization's board of directors with a check for \$50,000 to commence construction on the new John King Senior Housing (JKSH).

*After three years of outreach in the community and working with the Mayor's Office and various non-profit organizations, the Visitation Valley Greenway project effected its first step in the eventual jurisdictional transfer of the Reis Tracts from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to the Recreation and Park Department.

*James S. Dierke, a member of the San Francisco Unified School District for 25 years, became new principal at Visitation Valley Middle School (VVMs).

*Both John King Senior Center (JKSC) and Mercy Charities Housing hosted a groundbreaking celebration on Sept. 16 for the new senior housing complex to be built at 500 Raymond Ave.

*Visitation Valley Community Beacon acquired a Chinese hotline for those in the community whose primary language was Cantonese.

*Under a banner to "Keep our schools safe for everyone," Visitation Valley Middle School established its VVMs Hotline at 281-8406 for both students and neighbors to use for anonymous messages.

*Construction continued on the 560 of St. Francis Bay Apartments along Executive Park Boulevard.

*More than 200 people turned out Nov. 13 at the Visitation Valley Community Center to learn and voice their concerns about the potential Home Depot hardware giant moving into the neighborhood.

*Mayor Willie Brown made a guest appearance at St. James Presbyterian Church on Nov. 21.

2000

*A new tutorial program staffed entirely by volunteers was opened Feb. 9 at Herz Playground.

*Visitation Valley merchants, schools, churches and community service providers joined to celebrate many cultures that made up the neighborhood in a Multi-cultural Celebration at the Visitation Valley Community Center gymnasium on Feb. 26.

*Construction started in February on the John King Senior Community and Child Care Center to be located on Raymond Avenue at Sawyer Street.

*Students, parents, faculty members and sup-

porters of Our Lady of the Visitation (OLV) School participated Apr. 8 in a second annual walkathon event sponsored by the school's Parents-Teachers Group.

*Representatives of HUD and local organizations were on hand the morning of Apr. 28 in a Welcome Home Celebration for returning Geneva Towers residents at both the new Heritage Homes and Britton Courts on Sunnydale Avenue.

*Two men were injured Apr. 30 in shootings on Brookdale Avenue in the Sunnydale housing complex.

*Parents and students packed the auditorium of Visitation Valley Elementary School (VVES) on May 12 for multi-cultural assemblies celebrating Latino, Filipino and Samoan cultures.

*Visitation Valley Community Center (VWCC) honored an instructor, Randy Tanksley, who has been a part of its children's programs for nearly three decades.

*Visitation Valley's third annual Neighborhood Day was scheduled for Sept. 16 at Leland Avenue and Schwerin Street.

*Visitation Valley voters attended a candidates' forum for San Francisco Supervisor on Oct. 7.

*With meetings of a community advisory group outlining final changes and improvements to the plan for the Third Street Light Rail Project, construction of the line was scheduled to begin sometime in 2001 and be in operation in 2004.

*A number of Visitation Valley organizations sponsored a Community Walk and Potluck beginning at The Village community center on Dec. 9.

*After being vacant for nearly two years, a new medical clinic at 82 Leland Ave. made final preparations for its 2001 grand opening.

*District 10 voters in San Francisco on Dec. 12 elected Sophie Maxwell to represent them on the Board of Supervisors.

*Mo'Raysha Pouoa won first place in a design competition held by Provident Bankcorp on her design titled "World Peace."

*About 180 Visitation Valley youngsters visited a winter wonderland on Dec. 20 when the Bear Care-A-Van from Mervyn's arrived at The Village on Schwerin Street.

2001

*District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell Visitation Valley residents on Feb. 3 for the first of several weekend neighborhood clean-up campaigns sponsored by the Mayor's Office and the Department of Public Works.

*Village Director Vernon Long was honored Mar. 4 during a public worship service of Ridge View United Methodist Church.

*Mayor Willie Brown gave an encouraging presentation on Mar. 24 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Hans Schiller Plaza.

*St. James Presbyterian Church celebrated the 95th anniversary of its founding with a special Sunday service on Apr. 29.

*North East Medical Services (NEMS) celebrated the grand opening of its Visitation Valley clinic at 82 Leland Ave. on May 10.

*Hundreds of parents and children attended a sold out Evening Talent Show on May 17 at VVES sponsored by the PTA.

*Three masked men armed with shotguns robbed and assaulted the owner of Valley Super Market inside his store June 16 before making a daring westbound getaway in full view of many witnesses.

*More than 100 firefighters battled a stubborn wind-powered blaze on June 19 which burned 60 acres of dry grass around noon at Crocker Amazon Park.

*Soil and groundwater work was started in June adjacent to PG&E's Martin Service Center.

*Representatives of several San Francisco departments joined Supervisor Maxwell at the Visitation Valley Community Center on July 21 as neighborhood residents gathered to acquire information and get their questions answered at a Town Hall Meeting.

*Friends and neighbors got together Sept. 22 for a day of fun, food and entertainment as Visitation Valley celebrated its fourth annual Neighborhood Day at Herz Playground.

*Visitation Valley residents attended two community forums hosted by Urban Ecology and Supervisor Maxwell on Nov. 14 and 17 at the former Schlage Lock auditorium to help determine what new development could take place in the neighborhood.

2002

*Muralist Josef Norris guided 4th graders from Ron Machado's class at VVES to paint a mural on the outside of their school as part of a 16-week workshop.

*Captain Kevin Dillon took charge of the Ingleside Police District on Jan. 4, replacing Captain Marsha Ashe.

*A remedial investigation of the soil and groundwater at the Schlage Lock site on Bayshore Boulevard found both volatile organic compounds and metals as the primary contaminants, according to a detailed report recently issued by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

*After more than half-a-decade of discussion, planning and eventual construction, John King Senior Community (JKSC) on Raymond Avenue held an eventful grand opening on May 11.

*Official groundbreaking ceremonies for the Third Street Light Rail Project took place May 28 at the Caltrain Depot (Fourth and King Streets).

*Both VVES and VVMS exceeded their growth

goals in all areas of the State API Testing and received awards during a meeting of school administrators on Aug. 7.

*Visitation Valley got its first look at the City's new parking meters when workers began installing them along Leland Avenue on the second week of October.

*Running unopposed, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell was reelected to serve District 10 on Nov. 5 with 97 percent of the vote.

*San Francisco Housing Authority on Dec. 5 opened the Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. Youth Center on Sunnydale Avenue at Santos Street complete with a recording studio for aspiring artists.

*Dressed in black apparel, members of the Visitation Valley neighborhood joined together on Dec. 26 for a midday march through the Sunnydale housing complex in an effort to get their community to stop continual violence.

2003

*Muralist Josef Norris guided VVES second and fourth-graders through a 14-week tile mural project which culminated in an afternoon unveiling ceremony on Jan. 11.

*Representatives from several San Francisco city departments joined Supervisor Maxwell on Mar. 22 in hosting a town hall meeting at VWCC.

*The San Francisco Library Commission on Apr. 17 passed a purchase and sale agreement by a 5-to-1 vote for a new Visitation Valley Branch Library to be built on Leland Avenue at Rutland Street.

*Construction was started on a pedestrian crossing over railroad tracks near Little Hollywood after CalTrain announced it would be laying two additional tracks south of the tunnel.

*Youth and adults from community-based organizations around the Bay Area had a fun day of games and entertainment in a carnival atmosphere known as Game Day 2003 at VVMS on May 10.

*Neighborhood residents attended a June 14 meeting of the Visitation Valley Planning Alliance (VVPA) for an update on the Segment F construction of the Third Street Light Rail on Bayshore Boulevard.

*San Francisco Bicycle Coalition unveiled high-priority bike lane projects which included plans for Bayshore Boulevard.

*More than a year after the John King Senior Community officially opened its doors, the new John King Child and Family Development Center located on the premises celebrated its grand opening Aug. 1 with a gala celebration.

*For the first time in 31 years, VVMS was given a fresh coat of paint - inside and out - during the summer.

*San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) purchased the Super Fair Market at 201 Leland Ave. to build a new Visitation Valley Branch Library.

*Combining two former neighborhood events - Harvest Festival and Neighborhood Day - organizers held their first annual Celebrate Visitation Valley (CVV) on Oct. 4 at Visitation Valley Playground to mark the noontime ribbon-cutting and grand opening of the Visitation Valley Recreation and Park Clubhouse.

*The Village West Community Center was opened Nov. 22 at 1099 Sunnydale Ave. to provide services and resources for residents of all ages.

2004

*VVES PTA sponsored a multicultural potluck dinner on Jan. 30 with more than 150 people bringing home-cooked delicacies.

*Residents packed the VWCC gymnasium Feb. 21 to learn latest developments in the planning process for the controversial Schlage Lock site.

*Hundreds of neighborhood residents packed the VVES auditorium on Apr. 24 to voice their concerns during a Saturday morning town hall meeting with Mayor Gavin Newsom.

*VVES, together with several other San Francisco public schools, received a state Title 1 Achieving School Award on April 29 in a special banquet ceremony.

*Friends and neighbors packed the VWCC gym on May 18 to honor Pat Crocker, former senior director who retired after nearly two decades of service.

*Project Conned, a new door-to-door program designed to direct residents of various San Francisco neighborhoods to various City services, was commenced on June 10.

*Five spectacular mosaic murals created by sixth-graders at VVMS were unveiled May 21 in an afternoon ceremony at the school entrance.

*Rob Reiner, the actor and director best known for his portrayal of Archie Bunker's outspoken son-in-law Michael Stivik in the TV classic *All in the Family*, was joined by local officials on June 2 at Visitation Valley Family School on Leland Avenue to announce the first phase of a plan to implement voluntary universal preschool for the City's four-year-olds.

*Many friends and neighbors of Visitation Valley gathered at the Community Center on June 26 with members from the Sunnydale Residents' Council to help families memorialize loved ones who lost their lives in violence that has plagued the southeast sector of San Francisco.

*The Children's Programs at VWCC hosted a Night in Napoli event on July 16 at the gymnasium.

*Neighborhood residents gathered Sept. 18 at the corner of Sunnydale Avenue and Hahn Street

to celebrate completion of a community-wide mural project.

*San Francisco Beautiful awarded the Visitation Valley Clubhouse as a 2004 recipient for a beautification award.

*Youth and other residents from both Heritage Homes and Britton Courts participated on Oct. 9 in a Visitation Valley voter registration drive.

The Apple Store in downtown San Francisco on Oct. 18 displayed a descriptive documentary compiled by a Visitation Valley youth media club.

*Visitation Valley residents desiring to improve pedestrian safety were present Oct. 21 for an early morning press conference with Supervisor Sophie Maxwell on the Polk Street steps of San Francisco City Hall.

*More than 150 neighborhood residents gathered at the Church of the Visitation on Nov. 7 to present their needs and solutions to their growing need for more security in the neighborhood

2005

*City Planning expressed interest in acquiring a closed Travelodge site on Bayshore Boulevard near US101 for new housing.

*Mayor Newsom was in Visitation Valley on Feb. 1 to announce the Dave Matthews Band had donated \$250,000 to rebuild a playground in the Sunnydale housing complex.

*Burton High School announced it would install a synthetic sports playing surface thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the National Football League (NFL) Grassroots Program.

*Mayor Newsom on May 12 visited Burton High School where he was joined by students, school administrators and School District representatives to celebrate the opening of the Burton High Wellness Program.

*More than 350 local residents attended the Visitation Valley Violence Prevention Collaborative's Community Summer Jam 2 on June 4 at Herz Playground.

*More than 90 firefighters were needed to extinguish a smoky three-alarm fire on June 29 which destroyed a two-story home at 29 Teddy Ave.

*VWCC presented its first annual Florence Friedman Award to Mayor Gavin Newsom during an Awards Gala on July 13 at the Hotel Nikko in downtown San Francisco.

*Mayor Newsom on Aug. 11 unveiled Phase II of the City's Clean and Green Initiative: the Better Streets Program in Visitation Valley at Hans Schiller Plaza on Leland Avenue.

*California Assembly Member Leland Yee and other state representatives were on hand with more than 100 other guests Sept. 23 to celebrate the expansion of the Family and Community Services Center (FCSC) at 161 Leland Ave.

*Neighborhood residents who live on and use Leland Avenue had their first opportunity to formulate opinions on its forthcoming improvement at the first of three design workshops on Oct. 22 at the Visitation Valley Elementary School auditorium.

*Casa Lopez at 58 Leland Ave. was one of six City businesses selected to receive an honorable mention award at the first annual San Francisco Neighborhood Business Awards Reception Oct. 27.

*Children's advocate and actor/producer Rob Reiner announced the completion of signature gathering for the Preschool for All initiative on Nov. 17 at the Visitation Valley Clubhouse on Leland Avenue.

*After months of anticipation, San Francisco's Visitation Valley, the neighborhood's first photo history compiled by a group of five local historians, finally went on sale along Leland Avenue on Dec. 13.

*Despite pouring rain and cold wind, the Boys and Girls Club hosted their annual Greater Visitation Valley Boys and Girls Club Art Show on Dec. 17.

2006

*Uchechi Amaechi, a seventh-grader at VVMS was named winner of a student essay contest on Violence in the Media sponsored by the Violence Prevention Collaborative.

*San Francisco's Department of Public Works acknowledged and honored neighborhood resident Fran Martin's efforts with the Visitation Valley Greenway Project with an award during the 2006 Clean and Green City Summit on Feb. 15 in Golden Gate Park.

*Building on input received in two previous workshops and a merchants workshop, the local community on Feb. 11 was invited to provide final comments on a draft design for a proposed makeover of Leland Avenue. Most suggestions called for better street lighting and crosswalks, with more greenery planted that would be easily maintained.

*James Dierke, principal of VVMS since 1999, was named administrator of 2006 among all middle grades in the state by the Association of California School Administrators.

*One of Visitation Valley's pioneering churches, St. James Presbyterian, hosted a centennial celebration in April marking the 100th anniversary of its founding on Apr. 26, 1906.

*VWCC and the Beacon Center instituted the Green Stewards Program, a special youth outdoor education scholarship program for boys and girls, in a partnership with the Visitation Valley Greenway Project (VVGPP).

*Visitation Valley participated for the first time in an annual citywide *Shop the Block* event on May 20 with its own Leland Avenue Sidewalk Sale.

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ON THE HOUSE

The Healing Kitchen

by Carla L. Davis

Color speaks to us; all we have to do is listen.

What if by changing the colors in your kitchen you could change the emotional well-being of your entire family?
There are some universal standards - colors that have a certain effect on the majority of the population:

Color	Emotions	Effects on Health
Reds	passion and energy	helps with amnesia
Yellows	joy and concentration	heals digestive ailments
Greens	security and nature	heals the heart
Blues	peace and organization	re-energizes
Violets	transformation and creativity	emotional healing
Pinks	affection	increased sensitivity
Browns	determination and financial awareness	calms the mind
Turquoises	open communication	heals allergies and immune system issues

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Grapevine Puzzler Small California Towns

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Bluewater	French	McArthur	Beach
Bombay	Gulch	Mesa	Sand City
Beach	Grenada	Moss	Tamales
Chilcoot	Hornbrook	Landing	Trinidad
Crescent Mills	Horn Horse	Muir Beach	Tupman
Cromberg	Keene	Ocotillo	Vinton
Derby Acres	Lake	Port Costa	Wallace
Dillon Beach	Almanor	Round	Yosemite
Elmira	West	Valley	Valley

Historic Proportions

1891

Match clues to answers.

1. British steamship sank off the coast of Gibraltar on Mar. 17 killing 574.
2. They passed the International Copyright Act of 1891 on Mar. 3.
3. On Aug. 27, France concluded a defensive alliance with this country.
4. Grand opening and first public performance here on May 5.
5. Institution of learning opened on Oct. 1.
6. Huge storm off this south coast sank 14 ships in early March.
7. Work commenced on May 19.
8. Thomas Edison patented this on

As a Matter of Fact

*When the Panama Canal was opened in 1914, it shortened the sea voyage from New York to San Francisco from one of more than 13,000 miles to less than 5,200 miles. A ship traveling through the canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific actually goes from northwest to southwest.

*Wild eagles generally live from 20 to 30 years. In captivity, eagles may live 50 years or more. Young eagles first breed when they are about four years old and keep the same mates for life.

*The Empire State Building was built with 60,000 tons of steel, three million square feet of wire mesh, 70,000 cubic yards of concrete, and 10 million bricks. The structure can accommodate 15,000 people.

*The life span of insects ranges from a few days or hours for adult mayflies to 50 years or more for some queen termites. Most insects live less than one year.

*Nicolaus Copernicus, the Polish astronomer, was also a doctor, a lawyer, and a church official.

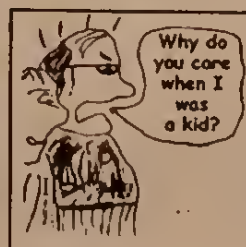
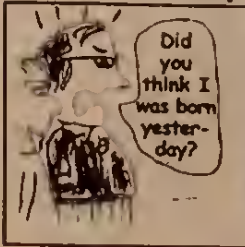
*In music, the term rubato means "with a freedom of tempo."

*The first 18-hole golf course in the United States opened in Chicago in 1895.

*The harder a pencil is, the higher its number and the more clay and less graphite it contains.

*The prison known as the Bastille, which figured so prominently in the French Revolution, was originally built as a home for the king.

Sump, the Grump



Poor Rix's Almanac

by Rix Quinn

Dear Readers: This time of year many people ask questions about summer camp.

Poor Rix: Did you ever go to summer camp?

Poor Rix attended yearly until winning the counselors' beard growing contest, pretty impressive for a 12-year-old. Then they promoted him to a job in the main cabin, sweeping dust off a dirt floor.

Dear Poor Rix: What should I take to camp?

Poor Rix always packed deodorant, a snakebite kit, and pest repellent, the same things he recommends taking to a political convention.

Poor Rix: Why do camp counselors often have silly nicknames?

Sometimes their names signify special traits. For instance, the counselor called Eagle may have sharp vision. The one named Brain might possess a sharp mind.

We called our counselor Goat, because he had a sharp odor.

Hey, Poor Rix: Did camping help you learn about wild animals?

Absolutely. Poor Rix learned a camper should never (a) corner a porcupine, (b) play tug-of-war with anything rabid, or (c) pat a foul-smelling black-and-white kitty. (That last experience earned Poor Rix his own cabin, plus a distinctive fragrance that made fellow campers vomit.)

Poor Rix: Did you learn to build a fire at camp?

Yes. One counselor taught us to rub two rocks together to create a spark. He called these rocks "flints."

Poor Rix found a way to light a campfire by rubbing two sticks together. He called these sticks "matches."

Poor Rix: I'm getting married next month, and want to cut wedding costs. I'm not sure my girlfriend agrees. Any suggestions? - July Groom

Poor Rix asked his cheap friend Lester, who's tighter than last year's thong, for low-cost wedding advice. Poor Rix also suggests you consult your bride, who may veto all these ideas:

1. Location - Ask a friend with a big den to borrow his house. If you remove the furniture and guests stand up, you can squeeze more in. (And maybe if you invite the neighbors, they'll let you park cars in their driveways.)

2. Invitations - Handwritten invitations add a personal touch, especially if scribbled in crayon on lined school paper. Instead of "RSVP" on the notes, Lester added "If you can't be present, just send a present."

3. Clothing - Lester and his bride suggested a "tee shirts only" event that attracted all their friends, plus three simpletons who wore tee shirts and nothing else.

4. Rings - Lester's bride gave him a

Five Years Ago In the Grapevine

AUGUST 2001

*Representatives of several San Francisco departments joined Supervisor Sophie Maxwell at the Visitation Valley Community Center on July 21 with neighborhood residents for a Town Hall Meeting.

*Twenty volunteers and 37 kindergarten students created a vibrant new mural at the entrance to El Dorado Elementary on July 11 celebrating the hopes and dreams of students at the school.

*A new entrepreneurial program called Techno Kids was developed during the summer at the Visitation Valley Beacon Center.

*Mayor Willie Brown and Recreation and Park representatives joined neighborhood residents July 7 to officially dedicate a newly refurbished Visitation Valley Playground.

*John King Senior Community (JKSC) began accepting applications on new low-income senior housing.

ring inscribed "14 k gold." He gave her one inscribed "93% recycled material."

5. Something Old - Lester's car has three speeds: reverse, slow, and downhill.

6. Something New - His bride's tee shirt said, "I'm with Stupid."

7. Something Borrowed - Lester borrowed everything, including the scented candles. The best man said his hair smelled like vanilla for three days.

8. Something Blue - The bride's mood after two weeks with Lester.

Dear Poor Rix: It's real hot around here now. And to make things worse, somebody in my office smells really bad. How can I tell if it's me, or somebody else? - Scared to Offend

Body odor comes in all shapes and sizes, from all directions. The first culprit can be bad breath.

Some experts recommend tooth brushing twice a day and flossing. Some also recommend using a tongue scraper, but never in the middle of a party, especially if one is serving finger food.

To check your own breath, lick the back of your freshly washed hand, wait for the saliva to evaporate, then smell it. Never lick a dirty hand, or one that has just touched nuclear waste.

Long ago, ancient people experimented with several underarm deodorants, including cinnamon and citrus. Then cannibals moved nearby, and found the smell so irresistible they originated the expression "Let's have the neighbors over for dinner."

In modern days, dedicated scientists tested underarm sweat. They discovered fresh sweat was odorless, but if stored several hours it became offensive.

So, the answer to your question, Scared to Offend, is: "Who nose?"

Grapevine Classified

WVCC BOARD MEETINGS: Visitation Valley Community Center (WVCC) regular monthly Board meetings, held the 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., except December and May, are open to the public. Board members are elected by the members of the community center with dues currently paid, at the Annual Membership meeting held the 2nd Saturday in May each year. Any vacancies that occur on the Board due to uncompleted 3-year terms of membership are filled by appointment of the remaining Board members. At least 75% of our Board members must reside in Visitation Valley. Persons interested in Board membership are encouraged to send a letter of interest to: Board of Directors Development Committee, Visitation Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134. Please let the Board know what you could contribute that will enhance and improve our organization for better service to our community. You will be contacted and your letter will be submitted to the Board for consideration at either the next Annual election or of any available open positions that might occur within the coming year.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for WVCC After School Program to tutor children ages 5-14 at one of our 11 sites in the Visitation Valley area. Interested persons contact Dee Smith, WVCC After School coordinator: (415) 585-2059

Finally, I leave you with the immortal words of my old uncle, who said, "If your nose runs, and your feet smell, you're built upside down." Hey, Poor Rix: Dandelions will grow in my yard, even if I spray weed killer on them or cut them up. But I have never, ever been able to raise a dandelion in a pot! Why is this? - Brown Thumb

Poor Rix loves dandelions, and considers himself a wild flower who also thrives in moderate climates, flies frequently from place to place, and may sometimes be viewed as a pest.

Did you know the first dandelions came to America with the colonists? Some said its leaves could be used in salad, and wine could be made from its flowers.

The dandelion also produces its own fertile seeds, so it does not require birds or bees for pollination. (That ends the only birds-and-bees lecture you'll see in this Almanac.)

Perhaps the secret of the flower's growth is long roots (up to three feet), which might explain its inability to grow in a pot while flourishing in a back yard.

Poor Rix also loves the back yard, and could never make his home in a pot because his face would flush.

Dear Poor Rix: My wife is pregnant and gets morning sickness, which also makes me nauseous. Is that a sympathy pain? - Expectant Father

Ask yourself these questions: (1) Do I really feel sorry for her? (2) Could I be the first pregnant man in history? (3) If I am, should I consider a C-section?

But seriously, a recent study discovered that married people often had the same diseases, even non-contagious ones. Maybe this explains why some partners get sick of marriage."

Poor Rix offers bad answers to good questions. E-mail him at rixquinn@charter.net.

IT'S NOT SMART to do nothing when you have something negative in your life. The issue somehow affects and becomes everybody's problem.

*Feeling nervous and upset
*Feeling sick on a regular basis
*Feeling like punching out something or someone
*Feeling like screaming
*Can't sleep
*Watching television all night
*Simply not in a happy frame of mind
*Problem making the right choices.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, we need to talk with you. Visitation Valley Jobs, Education and Training center offers advocacy and mediation services relating to all types of quality-of-life issues. Court-mandated programs available. Service and trust is our commitment to the community. Contact Marjorie Ann Williams, Counselor at (415) 239-2877

GRAPEVINE DISPLAY ADVERTISING: new limited time rates. Full Page \$60; 1/2 Page \$33.75; 1/4 Page \$18.75; 1/8 Page \$10; 1/12 Page \$8; 1/16 Page \$6. Generous discount for three or more insertions. Call (415) 467-9300 for more details. Classified 20 words for \$1. Extra line 50 cents. Ad and payments should be received by 15th of prior month at Visitation Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134

Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 11

ACROSS	1 Post	5 Eyelashes	10 Rom. Furies	11 Astringent	12 Farewell (2 words)	13 Unassuming	15 E. Indian tanning tree	16 Scheme	18 Modernist	19 Civil War commander	20 With joy	21 Bluish-white metal	22 Ant	24 Hundred (pref.)	25 Rear	26 Council for Econ. Advisors	27 Soap plant	30 Wine vessel	34 Dear (Ital.)	35 Song (Ger.)	36 Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)	37 Russ. community farm	38 Unadulterated	39 Fever (pref.)	40 Heavenly	42 Room	44 Heath evergreen	45 "Fra Diavolo" composer	46 Silk substitute	47 Ogle	9 Off	10 Jap. news agency	12 Oceanic tunicate	14 S.A. toucan	17 Recline	20 Small flute	21 Ardor	23 Prayer beads	24 Principal	26 Axis deer	27 Top	28 First	29 Planetarium	30 Circuit (abbr.)	31 Once (2 words)	32 Pole in Gaelic games	33 Male noble	35 Rom. poet	38 Rivera, CA	39 Gooseberry	41 Nothing	43 Herb of grace
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Visitation Valley Police Report

by Ingleside Captain Paul Chignell
Traffic Collisions

The following are the statistics for traffic collisions involving injuries in the Ingleside Police District this year: January-28; February-39; March-30; April-35; May-20; June-27. There have been two fatalities this year.

Police Cases

*On June 22 at 2:25 p.m., officers spotted a known and wanted juvenile gang member on the 1600 block of Sunnydale. When the suspect spotted the officers he took running and was finally chased down inside an apartment on the 1700 block of Sunnydale. He was arrested for a no bail juvenile warrant and for resisting arrest. The suspect resides on the 900 block of Ellsworth.

*On June 23 at 9:30 a.m. on the 400 block of Raymond, the School Resource Officer for Visitation Valley Middle School cited a student who lives on the 1600 block of Sunnydale for breaking a door in anger. At 6:40 p.m. at Rutland and Leland two police sergeants stopped a vehicle for a stop sign violation. The driver, who lives on the 1300 block of Bowdoin, was unlicensed. He was cited and his 1992 Saturn was towed.

*On June 24 at 3:05 p.m. at Garrison and Rey, a police sergeant observed a suspect with no permanent local address staggering in the middle of the street drunk and drinking an alcoholic beverage. The suspect was booked for being drunk and having a misdemeanor warrant.

*On June 26 at 1:52 a.m., two victims were walking up Teddy Street to their car when they saw three juveniles walking towards them. The victims made eye contact with the suspects at which time two of the suspects pointed handguns at the victims. The victims fled the area and called the police. Officers responded and interviewed the victims. Two police sergeants along with officers located all three suspects nearby and recovered two airguns that the suspects had in their possession. The suspects were positively identified and cited for brandishing and illegal possession of airguns. The suspects live on Alpha and Rolph. At 10:31 p.m. on the 1200 block of Silver, officers observed a vehicle proceeding at a high rate of speed on San Bruno and Silver. The officers followed the vehicle and noted through a computer check that the vehicle was stolen. When the officers stopped the vehicle at Silver and Hamilton, the driver switched places with the passenger. The driver, who is on probation for auto theft and lives on the 200 block of Oxford, was arrested for auto theft, receiving stolen property, a probation violation and driving with a suspended license. A passenger, a juvenile runaway from Otsego, was returned to her mother.

*On June 27 at 4:11 p.m., officers were patrolling the Leland Avenue area at Leland and Peabody in response to community complaints about public intoxication and disruptive behavior. They observed a resident of the first block of Towerside who was drunk and had misdemeanor warrants. She was arrested.

*On June 28 at 5:14 p.m., an officer stopped a vehicle for a stop sign violation at Mansell and Visitation. The driver, who lives on the 100 block of Tioga, was driving with a suspended license and his vehicle had expired registration. He was cited and his 1996 Buick was towed. At 6:17 p.m., officers were on patrol at Mansell and Visitation near McLaren Park in response to neighborhood complaints of noise and drug use. They spotted a vehicle with two occupants acting suspiciously. When they approached the vehicle they could smell the burning of marijuana. One suspect, who was on probation for narcotics deal-

ing and burglary was searched and the officers found eighteen suspected rocks of crack cocaine. The resident of the 100 block of Dolphin Court was also wanted on a warrant for driving unlicensed and not being insured. A second suspect, who lives on the 1200 block of Fitzgerald, was cited for vehicular violations. At 7 p.m., officers were on their regular patrol of the Sunnydale Public Housing when they spotted a wanted suspect walking on the first block of Brookdale. They stopped the suspect, who has no permanent local address, and arrested him for a no bail parole warrant. At 10:28 p.m., officers observed a large group of loiterers at Garrison and Rey. They stopped to investigate and found that one of the loiterers, who lives on the 200 block of Rey, was wanted on a warrant charging driving with a suspended license.

*On July 1 at 5:45 p.m., an officer stopped a vehicle for a turn violation at Santos and Geneva. The driver, who lives on Schwerin, was unlicensed. He was cited and his 1990 Honda was towed. At 8:20 p.m., officers went to Hahn and Sunnydale on a report of a large crowd fighting in front of the market at that location. They encountered two juveniles who had been engaged in a mutual combat. The residents of Blythdale and Daly City were cited for battery.

*On July 2 at 3 p.m., officers responded to the 200 block of Santos on a report of a boyfriend with a knife attacking his girlfriend. The officers found no knife but determined that the suspect had smashed a mirror on the victim causing cuts and had beaten her repeatedly as well as grabbing her forcefully around the neck. He was arrested on numerous felony charges.

*On July 5 at 2:49 a.m., officers went to the 300 block of Wilde where a suspect who lives in another unit in the building had broken into a unit looking for items to take. The victim was aware of the suspect's identity. When the suspect returned to his unit at 3 a.m., he was arrested by the officers and admitted the burglary. The suspect was also arrested on warrants from San Mateo that included a no bail narcotics warrant and a warrant for driving with a suspended license. At 2:53 p.m., officers stopped a resident of the first block of Arleta for a turn violation while driving his vehicle. When they made contact with him they determined that he was in possession of prohibited "brass knuckles" and marijuana. He was arrested on five charges. At 9:58 p.m., officers went to the 300 block of Harkness where a domestic dispute had escalated to the point where a female had stabbed her boyfriend twice in the back. The officers summoned medical assistance and arrested the suspect on two felonies.

*On July 6 at 5:50 p.m., officers stopped a known gang member at Peabody and Leland who had been listed as a suspect in a violent robbery case. The resident of Oakland was driving with a suspended license. The robbery case had been disposed of so the suspect was cited and his 1994 Ford was towed. At 8:31 p.m., officers spotted a vehicle driving in the Geneva and Santos area recklessly at high rates of speed, making wild turns and unable to control the vehicle. They finally stopped the vehicle in Daly City and cited the resident of the 1200 block of Peabody for reckless driving and driving with a suspended license. His 1987 Toyota was towed.

*On July 8 at 12:41 p.m., officers stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation at Rutland and Leland. The driver, who lives on the 1500 block of Sunnydale, was in violation of a stayaway order. He was arrested.

*On July 11 at 2:42 p.m., officers spotted a wanted hit and run suspect from a previous day driving on the 1800 block of Sunnydale. They stopped the resident of the first block of Santos and arrested

him for driving with a suspended license and for being uninsured. His 1987 Chevrolet was towed and the hit and run investigation continues. At 7 p.m., officers on the first block of Brookdale arrested a resident of the 700 block of 22nd street for a domestic violence assault on his wife from a previous day. The suspect also had a misdemeanor public nuisance no bail warrant.

*On July 12 at 1:02 a.m., an officer stopped a vehicle for a stop sign violation at Sunnydale and Santos. The driver, who lives on the 1600 block of Turk, was unlicensed. She was cited and her 2006 Kia was towed.

*On July 13 at 10:50 a.m., officers responded to a domestic violence case on the 200 block of Sawyer where the husband had gotten into an argument with his wife over a virus on a computer. He threw picture frames at her that shattered broken glass on the victim and their young children. The officers arrested the suspect for felony assault and four counts of domestic violence.

*On July 14 at 6:07 p.m., an elderly woman was walking in the area of 140 Blythdale when a motorcyclist speeding in the area struck the woman and fled. Officers responded to the scene and summoned medical assistance. The elderly victim was taken to San Francisco General Hospital where she was admitted in an unconscious state but breathing and determined by medical staff to be in critical condition. The officers scoured the area and obtained statements from witnesses as to the type and color of motorcycle. The officers then spotted the motorcycle with a driver at Santos and Blythdale but the suspect took off before the officers could contact him. The officers had seen a similar motorcycle in the area on previous days. They were assisted by officers who found the motorcycle behind a building in the area. They impounded the motorcycle. Shortly thereafter, the owner of the motorcycle, a resident of the first block of Blythdale, turned himself in to Ingleside Station and was arrested for hit and run and driving unlicensed.

Police Summaries

*June 22: 12:29 p.m., 100 block of Oxford St., arson of house, suspect known.
*June 22: 11:00 p.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, back door, DVD player.
*June 22: 11:12 p.m., 2000 block of Bayshore Blvd., burglary, store, glass door kicked in.
*June 22: 100 block of Cora St., breaking windows.
*June 22: 1705 Felton St., found 1989 Honda.
*June 22: Geneva Ave. and Carter St., lost cell phone.
*June 22: First block of Melra Ct., theft, camera and watch.
*June 23: 7 p.m., University Ave. and Bacon St., robbery, purses/natch.
*June 23: 200 Arleta Ave., stolen 1999 Nissan.
*June 23: First block of Blythdale Ave., elder abuse, embezzlement.
*June 24: 11:37 a.m., 2000 block of Bayshore Blvd., vehicle towed with bullet holes, blood.
*June 24: 5 p.m. (occurred June 20-24), 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary, window, TV.
*June 24: 6 p.m. (occurred June 14), 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., attempted burglary, window.
*June 24: 9:45 p.m., 500 block of Leland Ave., attempted robbery, victim fights off 2 suspects.
*June 24: 9:47 p.m., Cambridge St. and Shelley Dr., possible robbery vehicle pursued by officers into McLaren Park, suspects flee vehicle, leaving vehicle behind, one suspect detained nearby, investigation continues.
*June 24: 1600 Bacon St., stolen 1990 Toyota.
*June 24: Shelley Dr. and Cambridge St., found 1990 Toyota.
*June 24: 41 Tomaso Ct., stolen 1991 Toyota.
*June 25: 11:11 a.m. 200 block of Arleta Ave., attempted robbery, two juvenile suspects confront victim and demand money. Victim refuses and one suspect shoots victim with pellet gun causing small wound. Suspects flee on foot.
*June 25: 25 Cora St., found 1987 Honda.
*June 25: 200 block of Rey St., mental detention, 18 year-old girl.
*June 26: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., custody dispute.
*June 26: 1700 block of Geneva Ave., found 15 year-old girl.
*June 26: 900 block of Goettingen St., threats, suspect known.
*June 26: First block of Leland Ave., missing 14 year-old girl.
*June 26: 251 Schwerin St., found 1994 Honda.
*June 26: Silver and Hamilton St., found 14 year-old girl.
*June 27: First block of Leland Ave., stolen 1988 Toyota.
*June 27: First block of Leland Ave., found 14 year-old girl.
*June 27: 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., misde-

meanor assault.

*June 27: Visitation and Cora St., threats, suspect known.
*June 27: 10 pm First block of Brookdale Ave., burglary, window, television.
*June 28: 12:20 am 100 block of Rey St., robbery, two suspects with guns, money.
*June 28: 100 block of Kellogg Ave., malicious mischief.
*June 28: 200 block of Sawyer St., vandalism.
*June 28: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., breaking windows, 13 year-old boy a suspect.
*June 30: 150 Elliot St., found 1999 Nissan.
*June 30: 100 block of Garrison Ave., medical assist.
*July 1: 189 Delta St., stolen 1994 Nissan.
*July 1: 2000 block of Geneva Ave., drunk person released when sober.
*July 2: 12 noon-5 p.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, window, apartment in disarray.
*July 2: 9:00 am-9:10 pm 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, window, jewelry.
*July 2: First block of Brookdale Ave., threatening phone calls.
*July 2: 3800 San Bruno Ave., stolen 1985 Toyota.
*July 2: Schwerin and Visitation Ave., found 1986 Olds.
*July 2: 300 block of Schwerin St., threats.
*July 2: Silver and San Bruno Aves., stolen 2001 Toyota.
*July 3: 2 a.m.-2 15 p.m., 100 block of Rey St., attempted burglary, front door jam.
*July 3: 45 Peabody St., found 1995 Honda.
*July 3: 400 block of Raymond Ave., battery at school.
*July 3: San Bruno Ave. and Mansell St., found 1992 Ford.
*July 3: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., threats.
*July 4: 9:33 p.m., 4000 block of San Bruno Ave., dispute at party, pregnant woman kicked in stomach.
*July 4: 1865 Sunnydale Ave., found 1986 Toyota.
*July 4: First block of Santos St., vandalism.
*July 5: First block of Blythdale Ave., domestic violence.
*July 5: 1200 block of Girard St., mental detention, 26 year-old man.
*July 5: 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., domestic violence.
*July 5: 1784 Sunnydale Ave., found 1989 Toyota.
*July 6: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., threats.
*July 6: 100 block of Garrison Ave., vandalism.
*July 6: First block of Leland Ave., domestic violence.
*July 6: 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., vehicle strip.
*July 6: 1502 Sunnydale Ave., found 1986 Toyota.
*July 6: 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., found 14 year-old girl.
*June 7: 1710 Geneva Ave., found 1991 Toyota.
*June 7: 100 block of Tioga Ave., mental detention, 23 year-old woman.

New Headlights Could Save More Lives

Each year, approximately 5,000 pedestrians and bicyclists are killed along U.S. roads - 2,300 of them occurring at night - and another 70,000 pedestrians are injured in traffic crashes, according to a 2003 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report.

New automotive lighting technologies, including Xenon and Adaptive Front Lighting Systems, can help improve nighttime pedestrian safety, according to the Motor Vehicle Lighting Council.

According to researcher Michael Flannagan of the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, drivers "overdrive" the headlights on many of today's vehicles, meaning they are going too fast to stop safely within the distance made visible by the headlights.

"The critical safety need in low-beam lighting is seeing distance," Flannagan said. "The maximum safe speed with today's average low beams is only about 45 mph. Our studies indicate there is a major safety problem that headlights could address."

One possible solution is Xenon headlights, also known as High Intensity Discharge or HID. Based on a gas discharge process, Xenon uses an arc instead of a filament as a light

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*June 7: Visitation and Peabody St., stolen 2001 Toyota.
*June 8: 9:00 p.m., 241 Blythdale Ave., burglary, window, computer.
*June 8: 10:30 pm 500 block of Raymond Ave., bullet hits window.
*June 8: 33 Blythdale Ave., found 1991 Toyota.
*June 8: 1300 block of Bowdoin St., theft from locked vehicle, vandalism.
*June 8: First block of Brookdale Ave., breaking windows.
*June 8: 200 block of Raymond Ave., missing 40 year-old man.
*July 9: 1600 block of Sunnydale Ave., broken window.
*July 10: 1 p.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., aggravated domestic violence suspect runs from officers, warrant being sought.
*July 11: 10:45 p.m., Hahn St. and Sunnydale Ave., robbery, two suspects beat victim to ground and take phone.
*July 11: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., breaking windows.
*July 11: Blythdale and Brookdale Aves., vehicle strip.
*July 11: 631 Campbell Ave., found 1991 Toyota.
*July 11: 1800 block of Sillman St., missing 50 year-old woman.
*July 12: 10:21 a.m., First block of Santos St., burglary, attempted, juveniles at front door.
*July 12: 2 Harkness Ave., found 1991 Honda.
*July 13: 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 1900 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary, front door, DVD, wallet.
*July 13: 236 Guttenberg St., stolen 1991 Toyota.
*July 13: 100 block of Mansell St., false vehicle registration.
*July 14: 10:30 am 200 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary, window, stereo.
*July 14: 11:30 a.m. 100 block of Brookdale Ave., burglary, front door, loss to be determined.
*July 14: 2 p.m. Schwerin and Visitation Ave., robbery, strongarm, cell phone.
*July 14: 8:10 p.m. First block of Blythdale Ave., felony assault, fist fight.
*July 14: 10:26 p.m. Garrison and Rey St., gunshot victim in thigh, victim totally uncooperative with paramedics and police.
*July 14: Sunnydale Ave. and Hahn St., battery.
*July 15: 9:39 a.m., First block of Towerside Ave., vicious domestic violence.
*July 15: 1-6 p.m., 100 block of Peabody St., burglary, watch.
*July 15: 2 Ankeny St., found 1996 Honda.
*July 15: 300 block of Cambridge St., missing 34 year-old woman.
*July 15: Sunnydale Ave. and Hahn St., detention and release.
*July 15: First block of Leland Ave., hit and run.

The result is enhanced roadway vision by increasing the light output to the sides of the road.

A 2004 University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute test revealed that Xenon headlamps provided twice as much light for seeing critical objects on the road while producing 25 percent less glare. The wider beam coverage also provides better lighting on road shoulders, where pedestrians and bicyclists are commonly found.

Nearly 120 vehicle models equipped with Xenon headlights were sold in North America in the 2005 model year, up 21 percent from 2004.

Another emerging headlight technology is AFS or Adaptive Front Lighting System. It provides optimal illumination in various driving conditions by automatically modifying the beam pattern of the headlights in response to various speed, weather conditions and road situations. The headlamps automatically move as the steering wheel is turned. This helps illuminate the road at an earlier stage, allowing the driver more time to adjust and steer or brake as needed.

For more information on new lighting technologies or the Motor Vehicle Lighting Council, visit www.mvlc.info.

NewsUSA

DPH Awarded for Charity Care Program

The Department of Public Health recently won a 2006 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its Charity Care Project, lead by the Department's Office of Policy and Planning. The Charity Care Project was created in 2002 in response to a reporting and notification Ordinance promulgated by the city's Board of Supervisors.

Primary objectives of the project include annual analysis and reporting of charity care policies and expenditures for San Francisco's hospitals; coordinating with community stakeholders to monitor and focus community benefits provided by hospitals in exchange for non-profit - tax exempt status; and planned distribution of specific healthcare treatment and services for poor and underserved populations to increase their

access to healthcare.

"I am pleased that San Francisco and the city's Department of Public Health are being honored for our role in ensuring that individuals in underserved communities have adequate access to healthcare," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "It is our charge as a responsive government to provide these charitable resources to healthcare because many of the uninsured rely on charity care services provided by hospitals to access needed primary and acute care provision."

Benefits of the Charity Care Project include increased public awareness of free healthcare services, improved tracking of hospitals' charity care and community benefits, and an overall increase of \$22.4 million in reported charity care expenditures.

Bayview Police Station Update

by Bayview Captain Albert Pardini
Police Cases

*Thursday, June 15, 7: p.m., San Bruno and Silver Aves., Marijuana Arrest: A San Bruno beat officer was riding down San Bruno Avenue at Silver when he saw a man sitting in a car holding up a bag that contained a green leafy substance. He rode up to the car from the back and saw the man taking some of the leafy substance out of the bag and placing it in the cut wrapping of a cigar. The officer then knocked on the window of the car which startled the man who turned out to be a juvenile. The juvenile was cited for possession of marijuana and released to his parents at Bayview Station.

*Saturday, June 17, 12:10 a.m., 200 block of Goettingen St., Purse Snatch: The victim was walking on the 200 block of Goettingen by herself at midnight when a white SUV with three African American males drove up to her. One of the occupants demanded her purse, but she continued to walk. Then one of the suspects jumped out of the car and grabbed her purse off her shoulder. He then got back into the SUV and it drove off. The purse was recovered minus cash and credit cards nearby.

*Saturday, June 17, 10 p.m., Silliman and Girard Sts., Robbery with Rifle: The victim was leaving his garage when the suspect pointed a rifle in his face and demanded money. The victim handed the suspect his wallet and the suspect ran off. A similar robbery had taken place earlier in the same area. The suspect is described as an African American male, 30-35 years old, 6' tall with a dark complexion and dark clothing.

*Friday, June 23, 11:53 a.m., Silver Ave. and Cambridge St. (on a Muni bus), Purse Snatch: The victim was riding the bus when two juvenile females that were also on the bus grabbed her purse and jumped off the bus. The victim called her father who then, along with the rest of her family, responded to pick her up. Her family then searched the area and spotted the two suspects hiding on Dunsmuir. Responding officers were flagged down by the family and the two suspects were taken into custody. Besides catching the suspects, another interesting part of this story is that another bus rider witnessed the theft. Instead of just going about his business, he jumped off the bus and started chasing the two suspects. Although he lost sight of them, he saw where they dumped the purse and the victim was able to recover her belongings.

*Friday, June 30, 4 p.m., San Bruno and Thornton Aves., Forgery: Officers responded to the Bank of America on San Bruno on a report of a man attempting to cash a fraudulent check. When they arrived, a teller pointed to a man who was detained without incident. The bank manager told the officers that the suspect had attempted to cash a similar fraudulent check a month ago

and that they had refused at that time, but they did not contact the police. The bank manager had been able to contact the supposed owner of the check who said that it was forged. The suspect was transported to Bayview Station where he was booked on fraud and burglary charges. Why burglary? Since he entered the building with the intent to commit the fraud (felony), then he actually had committed a burglary as well. His intent is shown by his entering a second time with a similar forged check after being told the first time that the check was not valid.

*Friday, June 30, 4:35 p.m., San Bruno and Thornton Aves., Forgery, False ID and Warrant Arrest: Only a half hour later, officers responded to the Bank of America on San Bruno on the report of another fraud in progress. When they arrived, they met with the bank manager who directed them to a man who was attempting to cash a check. The man had a fake California driver's license that didn't have enough letters and numbers as well as a fake Social Security card. He was attempting to cash the check using these forged documents which he eventually admitted he had obtained on Mission Street. The suspect told officers that although the cards were fake, the information was still correct. The suspect was transported to Bayview Station where a fingerprint check revealed that not only was the information on the cards not correct, but that he had a warrant for his arrest. He was booked on fraud, false information to a police officer and the warrant at Bayview Station.

*Sunday, July 2, 11:40 p.m., Girard St. and Silver Ave., Attempted Carjacking: The victim was sitting in his car with his girlfriend in his girlfriend's driveway on the unit block of Girard. They had all the windows up and the doors locked. Suddenly one of the suspects attempted to open the driver's door; the other suspect stood lookout behind the car. The first suspect then ran around to other doors and tried to pull them open. The victim kept his cool, started his car and backed out of the driveway, causing both suspects to jump out of the way to keep from getting hit. The victim could see a large knife in the hand of the first suspect as he drove away.

*Wednesday, July 5, 4 p.m., Hamilton and Silliman Sts., Evading a Police Officer, Domestic Violence Stay Away Order Violation, Narcotics Arrest, Stolen Vehicle: The residents of the Portola District found the officers from the Bayview Station running around their neighborhood and through their backyards in search of a felon. The incident began when an officer was approached by a woman who stated her friend was being harassed by her ex-boyfriend, a few blocks away. The officer went to investigate and saw the man and woman talking by a vehicle. The officer asked the woman if she was having a problem, when the man jumped in his car and began to drive away. The officer attempted to broadcast the situation but his handheld radio was dead. The officer got into his car and gave chase. He was able to broadcast the description of the man fleeing. Other units

began to respond. The suspect drove into a cul-de-sac and was blocked by the officer. The suspect left the car and began to run. The officer lost sight of the suspect. Responding Bayview units surrounded the area that the suspect was last seen. A citizen told one of the officers that the suspect was now on a roof of the house. The suspect now realizing that he had no chance for escape gave up. Another citizen supplied the officers with a ladder to get the suspect to come down. Turns out the man, from San Francisco, was driving a stolen car and had a stay away order from the woman he was first seen with. Also in his possession was methamphetamine. He was booked for these plus many other charges along with a notification to his probation officer.

*Saturday, July 8, 4:30 p.m., San Bruno Ave., Evading and Resisting: A Portola District beat officer was driving south on San Bruno Avenue when he noted that south bound traffic was completely backed up. He noted that a white Ford seemed to be impeding the traffic. Using his lights and siren, he safely approached the white Ford which was going approximately 2-3 mph down San Bruno Avenue. The officer attempted to stop the Ford, but the driver would not stop. At Woolsey the driver made an illegal U-turn and started driving north on San Bruno, again at 2-3 mph. The driver kept making an obscene gesture at the officer with his middle finger. Other officers arrived on scene and were able to stop the car. When they approached the car, the driver was seen to be chanting; he would not get out of the car despite several orders to do so. Eventually he was physically removed from the car and taken to a hospital. At the hospital he had a heart rate of 234. His car was towed.

*Sunday, July 9, 3:24 p.m., San Bruno Ave. and Felton St., Narcotics Arrest: An officer who is assigned as the Portola Beat cop, was patrolling the San Bruno corridor when he saw a truck parked in a driveway completely blocking the sidewalk and impeding the flow of traffic on San Bruno because it stuck so far out into the street. The officer approached the truck and noticed that the two occupants were talking about folded up latex glove that the driver was holding. Knowing that narcotics are often packaged this way, the officer told the driver to hand him the glove, which was found to contain crystal methamphetamine. The driver was booked at Bayview Station on narcotics charges and his truck was towed.

*Tuesday, July 11, 5:25 p.m., 100 block of Brussels St., Robbery with Force: A 13 year-old boy was booked today for robbing a woman as she was walking up the stairs to her home. The boy pulled a hood over his head and asked the woman for the time. When she answered him the boy ripped the purse from her shoulder. He then ran away and took out the items he wanted from the purse and threw it away. Also following the boy were two witnesses. They chased the boy to a gas station where the boy locked himself in the bathroom and directed the arriving units to his location. The police found the property that was stolen in the pocket of the boy. The boy admitted to his crime and was booked.

*Saturday, July 15, 1:22 p.m., Silver and San Bruno Aves., Attempted Robbery: The victim, a 72 year-old Asian man went to a local ATM on San Bruno Avenue to make a withdrawal. He was followed from the ATM by two suspects who attempted to reach into the victim's pocket as he walked away from the ATM. The victim was able to get on a Muni bus, but the suspects followed him on the bus and continued to try to take his money. The victim alerted the bus driver who stopped the bus, but then just sat there and watched as the suspects threw the elderly victim out of the bus face down on the sidewalk. When the police arrived, the Muni driver told police that he didn't want to get involved.

A Brief History Of Chewing Gum

It's been a tool for diplomacy, a space-age way to keep astronauts' teeth healthy and has been paired with some of America's most famous icons. It's chewing gum and it may have been discovered when its modern day inventor was chewing on ways to reinvent the wheel.

Thomas Adams, often referred to as "The Father of Gum," is said to have first tried to mix chicle (a natural gum base that had been chewed in Mexico for generations) with rubber to create a cheaper product for carriage wheels. After experimenting without success, it's believed he overheard a little girl ordering chewing gum at a drugstore and then decided to use the chicle for chewing gum. At that time, chewing gum was made from paraffin wax. Adams bet that his chicle would be a popular substitute. His wager paid off.

Adding the Flavor

In Louisville, Kentucky, a drugstore owner named John Colgan sold gum from the balsam tree, flavored with powdered sugar. After Adams' son (who was a traveling salesman) paid Colgan a visit, he was sold on the merits of using chicle gum instead. Using the new chicle gum imported from Mexico, Colgan introduced a new, flavored gum called "Colgan's Taffy Tolu Chewing Gum." The product became an overnight success.

Since then, gum manufacturers have found a number of ways to create exciting gum sensations. For instance, Trident Splash™ has a liquid-filled center surrounded by a soft, chewy gum with a sweet, crisp outer shell. It comes in two surprising flavors that are a far cry from the powdered sugar gum sold by John Colgan: peppermint with vanilla and strawberry with lime.

Adding the Fun

Mr. Jonathan P. Primley had a sense of humor that upset proper Victorian rules of etiquette. At that time, no "proper lady" would be caught chewing gum. Yet Primley's invention of the first ever fruit-flavored gum, which he

called Kis-Me, proved very popular. The gum's slogan was: "Far Better Than A Kiss."

A Gum Is Born

The first sugarless gum, Trident, was introduced in the 1960s. Since its introduction, people have chewed more than 4.5 billion pieces of the gum. Placed end to end, that's enough gum to span the distance from New York to Los Angeles 18 times, reach halfway to the moon or circle the globe 1.8 times.

According to Cadbury Adams USA LLC, which is the U.S. business unit of confectionery and beverage leader Cadbury Schweppes (NYSE: CSG), and the makers of Trident and other popular gums such as Dentyne—"the gum isn't just great tasting, it's good for you."

Studies have shown that chewing sugarless gum reduces the risk of tooth decay—which can lead to tooth loss.

In fact, the gum was originally sold to soften tooth tartar. It was made from three ingredients (Tri-); and because it was good for teeth, the Latin root for teeth (-dent) was used in the name.

Trident White, a product also sold by Cadbury Adams, which whitens teeth and helps prevent stains, contains an ingredient called Recaldent that has been shown to strengthen teeth.

Great Moments in Gum

*Around the year 200 A.D., Mayans of Central America are believed to have been chewing chicle—a gum resin. At the same time, native peoples in North America are thought to have been chewing resin from spruce trees.

*In 1900, the first gumballs hit American shelves.

*In 1928, the first bubble gum was invented by a 28-year-old accountant named Walter Diemer.

*The first bubble gum cards were introduced in the 1930s. The pictures ranged from war heroes, to Wild West figures to pro-athletes.

*During WWII, U.S. military personnel gave American chewing gum away to people they met overseas—helping make friends and spread the popularity of gum.

*In 1964, NASA gave sugarless gum to astronauts on the Gemini space missions to help keep their teeth and gums healthy.

NAPS

Tips to Help Lower Health Insurance Costs

Health insurance, whether provided by your employer or purchased by you, can be both expensive and complex. To better understand your options and control your health insurance costs, consider these tips and suggestions from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), a voluntary organization of state insurance regulatory officials:

Know Your Options

*Married couples in situations where both spouses are offered health insurance through their jobs should compare the coverage and costs (premiums, co-pays and deductibles) to determine which policy is best for the family.

*Always stay in-network when possible, making sure to get referrals and pre-certifications as required by your plan.

*Keep all receipts for medical services, whether in- or out-of-network. In the event you exceed your deductible, you may qualify to take a tax deduction for out-of-pocket medical bills.

*Consider opening a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), if your employer offers one, which allows you to set aside pretax dollars for out-of-pocket medical expenses.

*If you lose or change jobs, be aware of your rights to continue your group health coverage from your old employer for up to 18 months (though you have to pay the premiums), as provided under COBRA (the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act).

Health Insurance Tips For Different Life Stages

The NAIC's consumer Web site, Insure U, (www.InsureUonline.org), explains the different types of health insurance and gives focused tips to consumers based on their likely needs in different life stages. For example:

*Young singles who may not yet have a full-time job that offers health benefits should be aware that in some states, single adult dependents may be able to continue to get health coverage for an extended period (ranging from up to 25 to 30 years old) under their parents' health insurance policies.

*Young couples expecting a child should make sure they register their newborn with their health insurance provider within the deadline required.

*Established families with children should consider Flexible Spending Accounts if available to help pay for common childhood medical problems such as allergy tests, braces and replacements for lost eyeglasses, retainers and the like, which are often not covered by basic health insurance.

*Empty nesters/seniors who are under 65 and no longer employed, but whose COBRA benefits have run out, should research high-deductible medical plans. At this life stage, consumers may want to evaluate whether long-term care insurance makes sense for them.

To learn more, please visit www.InsureUonline.org.

NAPS

Reward for Capture of Graffiti Vandal

Mayor Gavin Newsom on July 17 authorized a reward of \$2,500 for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of person(s) responsible for vandalizing City property by placing hundreds of large, unsightly, confusing and entirely inappropriate stickers with the initials "BNE" on parking meters and other City property, in clear violation of the law. It is the first time that the City has offered a cash reward in a case of vandalism.

The perpetrator(s) has focused on areas in downtown and South of Market over the past several months. The reward is offered through the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice in coordination with the Police Department, the

MTA and the Department of Public Works.

The defacing of public property has an adverse effect on those areas where it is taking place. Identification of the perpetrator of this malicious mischief is critical to stopping these acts. To date, no viable information has been produced that help in the identification of the "BNE" perpetrator(s).

The perpetrator(s) of these actions needs to be apprehended and brought to justice. Anyone having information helpful to the investigation of this case of repetitive malicious mischief is urged to contact Officer Chris Putz of the Graffiti Abatement Unit at (415) 278-9454 or the Confidential Tip Line at (415) 575-4444.

Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley free listings in the 415 area code
Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300

ANTIQUES
JIM CHINESE ANTIQUES & AQUARIUM, 144 Leland Ave., 586-1038

AUTOMOTIVE
BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd., 467-6130
BAYSHORE SERVICE, 2596 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5239
BROTHER'S AUTO BODY, 2520 Bayshore Blvd.
CHARLIE'S GARAGE, 2550 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7450
T.W. AUTOMOTIVE, 2500 Bayshore Blvd., 586-8281

BANK
BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave., 622-4501

BAKERS
LITTLE QUAPRO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253

BARBERS
DeMASI'S BARBER SHOP, 35 Leland Ave.
THE SHOP (JB), 178 Leland Ave., 239-6709

BEAUTICIANS
BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT, 222 Leland Ave., 333-7261
MAY MAY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave., 337-9381
MIZ RENAS SALON, 19 Blanken Ave., 467-3399
NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800
WHO'S BADD, 224 Leland Ave., 657-3156

BLIND CLEANING
SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Grand St., 467-7506

BOARDING HOUSE
ABLE'S CASA, 850 Rulland St., 333-4664, fax 333-4693

BOOKKEEPERS
AMY ARAGON, PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER, 467-8927

CARPETS
VERNA WALLACE E.A., 2320 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5333

CARPETS
HANSA INTERIORS, 41 Leland Ave., 333-6382

CASKETS
CASKETORIUM, INC., 93 Leland Ave., 586-3451

CHURCHES
CHURCH OF THE VISITACION, 655 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5950
IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave.
KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave., 468-1213
RIDGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave., 239-5457
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave., 586-6381
VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 305 Raymond Ave., 467-6055
VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St., 333-4503

COFFEE
CANDLESTICK COFFEE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2442
HAPPY DONUT, 2600 Bayshore Blvd., 469-5309

JOE, 28 Leland Ave.

CREDIT UNION
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, 29 Leland Ave., 434-0738

DAY CARE
CAROUSEL DAY CARE, 261 Hahn St., 469-5363

DENTIST
VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kuan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave., 239-5500

DEVELOPERS
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 587-7895

ELECTRICAL
TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4657

FLORISTS
IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave. 468-0145

GARDEN ORNAMENTS
SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5990

GROCERS
CASALOEZ PRODUCE, 58 Leland Ave., 586-4745
E-Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave., 585-9240
FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave., 467-7300
K.C. MARKET, 400 Wide St., 467-3024
LA LOMA PRODUCE #2, 65 Leland Ave., 239-7520
LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave., 586-1815
M & M SHORTSTOP, 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878
PICCOLO PETE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-0800
7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd., 468-8646
SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd., 586-4851
SMITTY'S MARKET, 2610 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5506
SUPER FAIR MARKET, 201 Leland Ave., 239-6866
TEDDY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave.

HERBS
SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave. 333-7469

HYPNOTHERAPY
VALERIE HABEGGER-HYPNOTHERAPY, 371 Teddy Ave., 468-5631

INSURANCE
EOIE EPPS (A H E INSURANCE), 467-0236, Fax 467-0276
ROBERT LEHMAN, CLTC (Blue Cross), 333-0850

KITCHEN CABINETS
LEE CHANG INTERNATIONAL, 25 Leland Ave., 333-2730

LAUNDRY CLEANERS
BAY WASH, 44 Leland Ave.
CITY WASH, 83 Leland Ave., 333-9467
COIN WASH & DRY LAUNDRY, 186 Leland Ave.
FORTY-NINER CLEANERS, 51 Leland Ave., 239-6418
LELANO AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave., 586-1412
VALLEY LAUNDRY, 90 Leland Ave.
VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 108 Leland Ave., 239-9030

LEARNING
34-1 LEARNING ACADEMY, 240 Leland Ave., 584-8555
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave., 452-4907
VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY SCHOOL, 325 Leland Ave., 586-9320

LIBRARY
VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH, 45 Leland Ave., 239-5270

MANUFACTURER
SEE'S CANOIES, INC., 345 Schwenn St.

MEDICAL
AMERICAN RED CROSS, BAY AREA CHAPTER, 1704 Sunnydale Ave., 584-3620
HAWKINS VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC (Dept. of Public Health), 1099 Sunnydale Ave., Appointments 715-0310
DR. SAM HO, MD, 9 Silliman St. No. 4, 337-6135
NEW CARNIVAL ACUPRESSURE HEALTH CENTER, 2458 Bayshore Blvd., 337-8100
NORTH EAST MEDICAL SERVICES, LELANO AVENUE, 82 Leland Ave., 391-9686 (ask for Leland Avenue clinic)
PORTOLA FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC (Dr. Divyang Patel) 2858 San Bruno Ave. 467-7500

NOTARY
ROYAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE, 46 Leland Ave., 333-4900

ORGANIZATIONS
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 2442 Bayshore Blvd., 587-2693
GENEVA TERRACE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, 60 Burr Ave., 584-2700
GIRLS AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY, 2050 Sunnydale Ave., 333 Schwenn St., 584-4044
JOHN KING SENIOR COMMUNITY, 500 Raymond Ave., 239-6233
LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave., 405-2000
ROCK (Real Options for City Kids), 590 Leland Ave., 333-4001
VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 66 Raymond Ave., 467-4499

PHARMACY
VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY, 100 Leland Ave., 239-5811

PHOTOGRAPHER
WALTER CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY (freelance), 435 Sawyer St., 587-9471, fax 337-8620

PLUMBING
MARK VOELKER PLUMBING, 99 Arleta Ave., 467-7401

POST OFFICE
VISITACION USPO, 68 Leland Ave., (800) 275-8777

REAL ESTATE
JUSTYNA P. TO (Century 21), 2488 Junipero Serra Blvd., Daly City 94015, (650) 991-5215, Mobile (415) 830-1235
CATHY KLINE SAUNDERS (Zephyr Real Estate), 215 West Portal Ave. 731-5011 ex 163

RESTAURANTS
BAYSIDE CAFE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2023
G & L BAKERY & RESTAURANT, 198 Leland Ave., 239-6283
HERNANDEZ TAQUERIA & BAKERY, 98 Leland Ave., 587-7721
LUAN FAT BAKERY, 110 Leland Ave., 585-1167
MISS MATTIE'S SUNFLOWER BLUES CAFE, 107 Leland Ave., 333-8854
PHO Y8 RESTAURANT, 73 Leland Ave., 469-5686
TWO JACKS, 167 Leland Ave., 337-0433

SCULPTOR
CARTORIGIALS (Mikal Cartor), 2 Hahn St., 239-4138

SELF-DEVELOPMENT
DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENTS (Marjorie Ann Williams, CEO, Career and Self-Enhancements Specialist) 467-7608

SERVICE PROVIDERS
THE VILLAGE (Community Center), 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5045
VISITACION VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH OUTREACH CENTER, 57 Leland Ave.
VISITACION VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TRAINING (VVBEST), 120 Leland Ave.
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (VCC), 50 Raymond Ave., 467-6400
VCC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 161 Leland Ave. 586-6998, Fax 586-8027
VISITACION VALLEY JOBS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VJET), 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 239-2866

TAVERN
THE CLUB HOUSE, 25 Blanken Ave.

TELEPHONE
D & A WIRELESS, 78 Leland Ave., 452-4139

VARIETY
GOLDEN 99 CENTS ZONE, 5-7 Leland Ave., 333-3923

Get Credit for Smart Financial Decisions

You're faced with a dilemma. It's the end of the month and you have a stack of bills due. You were hoping to go on a special weekend getaway with friends, but don't have the money to pay all your bills and enjoy the trip. You realize something has got to give, so you decide to skip a payment on your credit card to have money for the weekend. It's only 30 days, you say to yourself, and you plan to really get serious about paying down your bills after this month.

That decision could cost you thousands of dollars.

"Making late payments is really the number-one way that consumers can damage their credit report and credit score," says Chaomei Chen, head of credit risk for the credit card division of Seattle-based Washington Mutual. "Conversely, making on-time payments is the easiest way to increase a consumer's credit score over time."

Keeping Score on Credit Score

Credit scores are derived from information found in your credit reports, which are maintained independently by each of the three major bureaus—TransUnion, Equifax and Experian. The data is run through a mathematical formula to produce your "FICO" score. Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) invented and popularized the methodology for determining consumer credit risk. Most FICO scores run between 300 and 850. The higher the score, the better, because consumers with high scores are offered the lowest interest rates for homes, automobiles and other consumer loans.

Even One Late Payment Can Hurt

Chen pointed out that only one late credit card payment could have a negligible effect on the score of consumers who already have a dramatically low FICO score, and conversely could drop the FICO scores of people who already have very high FICO scores up to 100 points.

"That difference in FICO score can add many thousands of dollars in interest payments over the life of a loan. It's in the consumer's best interest to pay bills on time each and every month."

According to Fair Isaac, for a \$250,000 home loan, based on recent interest rates, a consumer with a 700 FICO score would have a monthly payment of \$1,614 for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage. A consumer with a 550 credit score would pay an estimated \$2,094 a month for the same loan. That's a difference of \$480 a month, and \$173,000 in additional interest over the life of a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage.

That weekend getaway has become very costly.

In addition to paying bills promptly, Washington Mutual, the only credit card issuer in the U.S. that provides its credit card customers free online access to their FICO scores, recommends other simple ways to increase credit scores, including:

- *Pay more than the minimum due on credit card accounts each month.
- *Keep the balances on revolving credit accounts below 50% of the credit line.

- *Check your credit report at least once per year to ensure that information is being correctly reported.

Don't be late in paying your bills. Even one late credit card payment can cause a credit score to fall up to 100 points.

NAPS

Crossword Puzzle Solution

MAIL	CILI
DIRAE	ACERB
SO LONG	MODEST
AMLA	PLAN NEO
LEE	FAIN ZINC
PISMIRE	HECTO
AFT	CEA
AMOLE	CHALICE
CARA	LIED FAA
MIR	PURE FEBR
EDENIC	TRAVEL
ERICA	AUBER
YLON	LEER

Visitacion Valley Family and Community Services Center



For a Better, Healthier, Safer Community for All

We Can Help You!

Complete Immigration documents, assist with SF County paperwork (Medi-Cal, Welfare, etc.), education workshops, referrals to other services

Parents Support Group

Friday, August 18
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Part II: Teaching Parents the
Difference of Self-Esteem vs.
Self Concept

Parents Education Workshop

Saturday, August 19
9:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Infant CPR Training

Required sign-up in advance!

Meet and Eat

Parents and Children
Playgroup Interaction
Thursday, August 24
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Theme: Back to School
Speaker: Karen Polk



Meet and Eat at Carter Terrace

530 Carter Street
Thursday, August 10
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Theme: Lego



Every Wednesday

August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
6 - 8 p.m.

Men's Classes
Facilitated by
Before The After
FREE Refreshments



Whole Family Field Trip

Saturday, August 5
9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch and Snacks Provided



August 2006 Activities

listed below and at left are held at
161 Leland Avenue

Enhanced Information and Referral

Every Monday Through Friday
August 1-31
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free Food Distribution

Every Monday
August 7, 14, 21 and 28
3 - 4 p.m.

Parents Advisory Council Meeting

Free Dinner and Childcare
August 4
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Individual and Family Counseling

Friday, August 18
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

For appointment, please call Julia Carmen at
(650) 738-8045 or FCSCStaff at (415) 586-6998



161 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134

Tel: (415) 586-6998 Fax: (415) 586-8027 e-mail: meriam_vcc@sbcglobal.net



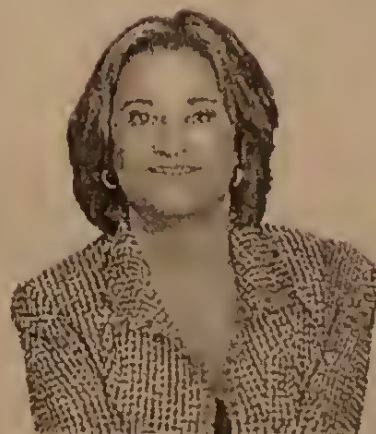
**Cathy began looking at Visitacion Valley real estate in 1949,
and she's been out in front of the competition ever since.**

Cathy has been the most successful REALTOR® in Visitacion Valley for more than 20 years.

She was born and raised in the Valley, and has successfully represented buyers and sellers for years. She's actively involved in neighborhood charities and community events.

For all your real estate needs, call Cathy!

Cathy Kline Saunders
Broker Associate, REALTOR®
415.731.5000 ext 163



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